

Carter optimistic on Mideast peace

CAIRO (AP) — Jimmy Carter, architect of Egypt's peace treaty with Israel, said Tuesday he doesn't expect the collapse of Israel's government to scuttle hopes for Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and eventual peace in the Middle East. But the former U.S. president said he hopes a single-party government will emerge from the Jewish state's political turmoil to avoid the "chaos and stalemate" of bipolar coalition rule. He said his optimism derives from experience as president, when he sponsored negotiations leading to the 1978 Camp David accords and the Egypt-Israel treaty a year later. "I do think there is still a good chance for... dialogue," Carter told reporters after a meeting and lunch with President Hafez Assad. "The basic parameters have been worked out. There's agreement among the Palestinians, the Egyptians, the Americans and, I think, more than half the Israelis. So I believe it's going to happen, (although) it may be delayed to some degree." Carter was referring to possible side-effects of disputes within the Israeli cabinet that led Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Tuesday to fire his finance minister and political adversary, Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Mandela demands tougher sanctions

STOCKHOLM (R) — South African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela Tuesday called for tougher sanctions and the breaking of diplomatic ties with Pretoria. Mandela, deputy president of the African National Congress (ANC), told a news conference the international community must keep up pressure on South Africa to accelerate the democratic changes now begun. "We are asking for the intensification of sanctions against South Africa," he said, adding that countries which had diplomatic relations with Pretoria should break them off. Mandela was speaking during an official visit to Sweden, the last leg of his first trip outside South Africa since he was freed last month after 27 years in prison. Mandela praised Sweden as "one of the strongest supporters of the South African struggle for freedom." Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson pledged to maintain Sweden's rigid economic sanctions against Pretoria until full and free elections took place in South Africa. "But we do not have that situation now so we will continue our support for the ANC, and for other forces in South Africa and outside South Africa working against apartheid," Carlsson said.

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Afghan rebels attack Khost

KABUL (AP) — U.S.-backed guerrillas have attacked the strategic city of Khost and government forces are retaliating with Soviet-made Scud rockets, a government spokesman said Tuesday. It was not clear whether the attack was related to last week's failed coup attempt by former Defence Minister Shah Nawaz Tanai. Tanai is from Khost, near Afghanistan's border with Pakistan, and he is said to be well regarded there. Eastern European diplomats say they are concerned that Tanai, who fled to Pakistan after his failed coup attempt, will unite with the U.S.-backed guerrillas to take the city, giving them a foothold in Afghanistan. Unconfirmed reports from Pakistan say Tanai has begun negotiations with the Afghan government commander for the Khost region.

War victors, Germany to discuss unification

BONN (R) — The four World War II allies and the two Germanys begin talks on Wednesday to prepare to return to the Germans the full sovereignty they lost with the defeat of the Third Reich in 1945. The four powers — the United States, Soviet Union, Britain and France — will meet their one-time charges as near-equals in Bonn to clear the way for the two German states to merge. The initial one-day meeting is just supposed to deal with procedural matters, but differences are already emerging over these points, Western diplomats and Bonn officials said. Confidence of their growing status, the Germans want to hold the talks — expected to drag on until autumn — only in Bonn and East Berlin, they said.

Bush urges \$300m for Nicaragua

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush lifted U.S. economic sanctions against Nicaragua Tuesday and asked Congress to adopt a \$300 million emergency aid package aimed at supporting the newly elected pro-American government. "Americans are determined to help the people of Nicaragua," Bush said in announcing that he had signed an executive order revoking sanctions imposed in 1985 to pressure the pro-Sandinista government. The Sandinistas were defeated in democratic elections last month. Bush said the economic embargo and aid proposal was a "demonstration of our resolve to be part of the process of reconciliation" in Nicaragua. Violeta Chamorro, who will be sworn in as president on April 25, has requested \$300 million in emergency U.S. aid to revive her country's battered economy.

U.K. defence aide holds talks in Riyadh

NICOSEA (R) — British Defence Secretary Tom King held talks in Riyadh on Tuesday with Saudi Arabian Defence Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, the Saudi Press Agency said. The agency, received in Nicosia, said their discussions covered questions of joint interest without giving details. Britain's biggest arms deal is with Saudi Arabia. Known as the Al Yamama deal it includes Tornado jet fighters, airbases and pilot training and is worth an estimated £20 billion (\$30 billion).

15 die in S. African unrest

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Blacks nationwide clashed among themselves and with police, resulting in 15 deaths, at least 50 injuries and hundreds of arrests, officials said Tuesday. The police unrest report Tuesday listed 57 incidents from the previous 24 hours, the largest number on the daily report since violence erupted last month in black areas across the country. More than 200 blacks have been killed since early February, most of them in faction fighting. In the southeastern province of Natal, the site of four years of fighting between rival groups, police said eight black men were stabbed, shot or burned to death in three separate attacks.

Israeli coalition collapses

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's governing coalition collapsed Tuesday over Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's refusal to accept a U.S. proposal for the first Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The withdrawal of the dovish Labour Party from a government led by Shamir's Likud Party abruptly halted any hopes for early talks on ending the 27-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Underlining the conflict, Housing Minister David Levy of Likud ignored U.S. objections and oversaw the start to building 3,500 new Jewish homes in Arab East Jerusalem only hours after the government collapsed.

"Labour is going this Thursday to vote no confidence in a government that hasn't made a decision on the peace process after huge efforts," Labour Party leader Shimon Peres said. "Immediately after that we will try to form a coalition for peace," Peres, the vice premier, told

which has been bogged down over details since he unveiled it 10 months ago.

The Israeli leader, under pressure to halt the Palestinian uprising, proposed last May that Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip elect representatives to negotiate limited self-rule.

His party's refusal Sunday to start the Cairo talks and the collapse of the coalition Tuesday dealt a blow to Palestinian aspirations for a first-ever dialogue with Israel.

"This is a great setback for the peace process and I believe Israel has killed its own peace plan," Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij said.

The coalition's breakup, climaxing weeks of diplomatic manoeuvring and domestic political infighting, came when Shamir, 74, fired Peres, 66, from the cabinet.

The other Labour cabinet ministers then resigned, ending weeks of threats to quit over Shamir's indecision.

Relations with the United States, Israel's main ally, were

further strained in the afternoon when Levy stood in Arab East Jerusalem and said some 8,000 new homes for Jews would be built on the disputed land by 1991.

Tensions exploded into violence at the weekend when Israeli police killed two Palestinians in East Jerusalem clashes.

East Jerusalem became an issue in the Likud-Labour split with Likud hardliners accusing Labour of supporting policies threatening Israeli control over the entire city.

While both parties condemned Washington's stand, Labour — in a bid to win Palestinian support for peace talks — was willing to let voters among East Jerusalem's 150,000 Arabs take part in the proposed elections.

"The Arabs of Jerusalem do not need to take part in any whatsoever in elections for autonomy," Shamir said, rejecting a view shared by Labour and the United States.

Labour and the Citizens Rights Movement Tuesday night submitted appeals to Israel's supreme

court, asking it to change the parliament's schedule so that the vote is held Wednesday. These appeals are due to be discussed Wednesday morning.

Labour's departure from the government will not take effect for 48 hours, leaving the door open for a compromise to preserve the coalition which has ruled Israel through two stalemate elections since 1984.

Avi Pazner, Shamir's spokesman, told the Associated Press: "I really am not very optimistic about a compromise."

Peres, who also held out little hope for patching up differences, raised the possibility of avoiding new elections by forming a Labour-led government with ultra-orthodox and left-wing parties.

"We do hope to continue the peace process. We think there is a chance, but I cannot say this is certain, to form a coalition to continue the peace process," Peres said.

The balance of power was held by two ultra-orthodox religious parties.

Bush has no regrets over Jerusalem statement

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush said Tuesday he had no regrets over his comment condemning Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem, which helped provoke a crisis that led to the collapse of the Israeli coalition.

"I don't regret it. I think all the speculation and commentary of the last 10 days have blown the thing way out of proportion," Bush told a news conference.

He said he did not want to comment on the collapse of the Israeli government. The crisis blew up when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir refused to reply to a U.S. initiative aimed at convening Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

"Right now in Israel there's internal developments taking

place in the political scene there and I do not want in any way to mangle into the internal affairs of Israel," Bush said.

"It's so sensitive, it's so emotional and I just think any further speculation on this question would certainly not be useful," he added.

Bush equated U.S. opposition to Israeli West Bank settlements to its position on the Jewish suburbs of East Jerusalem, which house about 110,000 people.

Previous administrations for years had turned a blind eye to the neighbourhoods, built in areas occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

Many analysts believe Bush's reopening of the sensitive question now destabilised the sensitive Israeli coalition and gave

Shamir an excuse to stall the peace process while posing as a defender of Jerusalem.

Meanwhile the American Jewish community, alarmed at what it perceives as a new anti-Israeli tone in U.S. Middle East policy, is mobilising its considerable resources to fight the shift on the part of the Bush administration.

"The community is extremely agitated as a result of a perception of a change for the worse," said Seymour Reich, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

On behalf of the organisation representing 48 major U.S. Jewish groups, Reich issued a strongly worded statement Monday accusing the administration of undermining Israeli government

Arafat suggests special U.N. procedure on Jewish immigration

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Yasser Arafat has suggested invoking a special procedure to counter any U.S. veto of a United Nations resolution condemning the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israeli-occupied lands, a newspaper reported.

"The Arab states will press for clear and frank rather than weak resolutions," Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), told the Kuwaiti daily Al Anba.

The planned emigration of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel, with some settling in Israeli-occupied Arab territories, has sparked a storm of protest in the Arab World.

Al Anba quoted Arafat as saying he would urge Arab states to invoke a "uniting for peace" resolution if Washington vetoed a Security Council resolution on the issue.

That would transfer the issue from the big power-dominated council to the General Assembly, where Third World and other pro-Arab states are the majority and unanimity is not required.

The United States, Israel's key superpower backer, has frequently vetoed pro-Palestinian resolutions on grounds they are biased against the Jewish state.

But American officials have indicated that whether or not Washington vetoes a resolution on the Soviet Jews depends on the wording, and a veto is by no means a foregone conclusion.

The United States officially

Arabs pessimistic over Israeli-Palestinian talks

By Rana Sabbagh from Reuters and Jamal Halaby from the Associated Press

AMMAN — Arab commentators were pessimistic over the future of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks after the collapse of Israel's coalition government Tuesday.

"This is a great setback for the peace process and I believe Israel has killed its own peace plan," said Bethlehem's Palestinian Mayor Elias Freij.

"What counts is who will form the new government," Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), told Reuters in Amman.

"If they form a new government that is ready to meet with and to have a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), then this is good move that draws peace closer," he said.

The Israeli coalition government collapsed over Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's refusal to accept a U.S. proposal for the first Israeli-Palestinian peace talks as demanded by the Labour Party of sacked Vice-Premier Shi-

mon Peres.

In Tunis, Jamil Hilal, director of the PLO Information Department, told Reuters: "Our concern is that any new government should accept our framework for unconditional talks between Israeli and Palestinian delegations."

He restated the PLO's reservations about U.S. proposals for the Cairo meeting, which leave Egypt to announce the names of the two delegations and restrict substantial discussions to Israeli plans for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories.

The PLO says it must announce the Palestinian team and the agenda should be open.

Abu Jaafar, general director of the PLO's Political Department, told a news conference in Copenhagen the fall of the Israeli government showed Shamir's Likud Party was the real barrier to Middle East peace talks.

The collapse of the coalition "signals to all concerned... that it is not the PLO saying the government led by Likud is the real difficulty in the way of the peace process, it's the Israelis themselves who are saying it."

Some Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip welcomed the development, saying they hoped a new government would be more effective in moving towards peace.

"We are looking forward for a new government capable of making decisions," Faisal Al Husseini, the leading Palestinian nationalist in the occupied territories, told Reuters.

But other Palestinians said the fall of the government would set back peace efforts.

Former Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri told Reuters he believed neither Likud nor Labour could form a government on its own and new elections were likely.

"Even if either party can form a government on its own or in alliance with other parties, such a government would not be a stable one able to take the decisions Israel has to make now."

He said the United States would not be happy with a new right-wing government led by Shamir and said the Israelis had to consider this when taking any

decision on a new government.

"Holding elections will mean prolonging the absence of an Israeli decision and procrastination," Masri, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lower House of Parliament, said.

"If such elections take place, I do not expect that they will bring about any political outlooks that are different from the present ones and the political map will not change."

Syria said the collapse of the coalition was a "delusion and an old-new game aimed at gaining time to smash peace efforts."

"The real aim behind the dispute between the two wings of the Israeli government is to delude others and to divert attention from Israel's real intentions," the official Damascus Radio said.

The official English-language Syria Times said: "It is evident that any settlement of the Middle East problem currently promoted by Israel is in fact a mere manoeuvre aimed at diverting the attention of the world from the new Israeli expansionist plan."

(Continued on page 3)

King Hussein asks Iraqi leader to spare newsmen

LONDON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday he had sent a message to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein seeking to prevent the execution of a British-based journalist convicted by Iraq of spying.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who has appealed to the Iraqi President for clemency, asked King Hussein to intercede with her on his behalf.

Farzad Bazoft, an Iranian-born journalist working for Britain's Observer newspaper, was sentenced to death by an Iraqi court Saturday. British nurse Daphne Parish was jailed for 15 years for helping him in spying activities.

King Hussein, whose country solidly backed Iraq during its eight-year war against Iran, told Arab journalists in London that he sent his message after meeting

Thatcher.

A British Foreign Office spokesman said: "A number of other countries, domestic and international organisations have joined the campaign to bring pressure on the government of Iraq to commute the sentence."

"There has been no Iraqi response to these appeals for clemency. Our efforts will continue."

Meanwhile during a meeting with chief editors and managing editors of Arabic newspapers and magazines issued in London, King Hussein stressed the need for crystallising a pan-Arab position vis-a-vis the Arab causes, and pointed out that "the emergence of an Israeli power that

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Sfeir asks Hrawi to take control of enclave

Fighting flares on both sides of Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Fighting flared on both sides of Beirut's "green line" Tuesday, with opposition rivals fighting the west and Christians shooting each other in the east.

Rival Shi'ites fought with mortars and rockets in the worst clashes between them in Beirut this year, killing two people and wounding 11 in five hours of fighting, security sources said.

They said militants of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) and militiamen of the Syrian-backed Amal fought in three areas commanding entrances to the southern suburbs of Beirut.

Each side blamed the other for the battles, which caused considerable material damage before ceasing off when Syrian troops deployed between the two sides.

Radio stations broadcast appeals from schools where children were trapped. Arriving passengers were forced to stay at Beirut airport after the fighting closed access roads to west Beirut, the radio said.

In Christian east Beirut, security sources said a woman civilian was killed and five people were wounded by sniper fire between troops of General Michel Aoun and militiamen of the Lebanese Forces (LF).

Lebanon's Maronite patriarch urged Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi to take control of the Christian enclave, where Aoun and LF leader Samir Geagea have been fighting on-and-off for six weeks.

Patriarch Nasrallah Butros Sfeir, who has threatened to excommunicate Aoun and Geagea if they continue fighting, told

Beirut's As Safir newspaper: "The legitimacy (the west Beirut-based Hrawi government) should expand its authority on all the country. It should not await the invitation of anybody."

Hrawi, who has some 15,000 troops at his disposal, has said he would only intervene to halt the bloodshed if he was asked officially by Christian political and religious leaders.

The sniper fire Tuesday followed overnight tank and artillery battles across the Keserwan strategic mountain ridge, north-east of Beirut, the most serious of a ceasefire agreement announced 12 days ago.

The war for control of the Christian enclave erupted on Jan.31 when Aoun ordered the LF to disband.

Geagea was quoted by As Safir as saying more fighting between his 10,000-strong militia and Aoun's 15,000 troops, was possible.

The LF chief said Aoun, who has defied Hrawi's authority and held out at the presidential palace in the Christian suburb of Baabda, "might resort to war one last time before surrendering" to Hrawi.

Aoun Monday warned of fresh bloodshed, saying mediators had failed to resolve the fighting in which 810 people have been killed and 2,650 wounded.

The fundamentalist Hizbollah and the more secular Amal have been locked in battles for the past three years for the leadership of Lebanon's 1.3 million Shi'ites. More than 950 people have been killed in the inter-Shi'ite feud.

Soviet parliament votes for strong presidency

MOSCOW (R) — Mikhail Gorbachev won an overwhelming victory Tuesday when parliament approved his plans to create a powerful executive presidency and end the Soviet Communist Party's 72-year monopoly on power.

"I congratulate the congress," the Kremlin leader told the Congress of People's Deputies to rousing applause after the parliament routed opponents of the new presidency who feared it might lead to the re-establishment of Stalin-like dictatorship.

The opposition had predicted a very close vote but the congress passed the presidential measure by a vote of 1,817 to 133, with 61 abstentions.

It voted 1,771 to 164 with 74 abstentions in favour of the bill ending the party's leading role in society, clearing the way for a multi-party political system.

Supporters of the executive presidency, including a number of radicals, had pushed for the measure in the belief that only a strong leader could implement pressing reforms, guarantee law and order and revamp the country's sick economy.

"This is an important and powerful step on the road to democracy," Gorbachev told the deputies.

Gorbachev won about 300 more votes than were needed to make the historic changes which would give him the power to deal with such urgent problems as Lithuania's declaration of independence Sunday (see page 8).

Addressing the parliament before the votes on the presidency and the alteration of article six of the constitution on the party's pre-eminent role, Gorbachev told the deputies: "This decision is the most significant in the history of our government, but there remains much (to do) to remove the obstacles to perestroika," his ambitious, five-year-old programme to restructure economic and social life.

"Presidential power must lead to the flourishing of perestroika in our multi-national state," the 59-year-old leader added.

Gorbachev is already party leader and hold the title of president as chairman of parliament, but without executive powers.

He has pressed for increased government power in order to deal with a host of problems, including ethnic violence on the vast southern rim.

Jordan takes quiet road to democracy

By John Rice
The Associated Press

AMMAN — A year ago, Ahmad Kofahi was in prison for criticising the government and fired from his job as a university teacher.

Now the Islamic activist is a member of Jordan's revived parliament, which had been in virtual limbo since 1967, and is heard lambasting officials in the state radio's broadcasts of debates in the House.

Kofahi's march from a prison cell to the halls of power symbolises the changes that have quietly transformed Jordan over the last year while the roar of democratic revolt has resounded across Eastern Europe.

"The atmosphere's different now. We have more freedom," Kofahi said in an interview. "But it's not enough."

Kofahi, like other Islamic fundamentalists and leftists who are back in parliament after decades in the political wilderness, want tougher investigations of government corruption, greater curbs on security agencies and wider social justice.

Human rights "are born before the human is born," Kofahi said. "It's not a gift from a leader or a party or an authority and not to have these rights is equivalent to death."

The winds of democratic change have swept across some other Arab countries, most dramatically Algeria and Tunisia, where the ruling parties have been shaken up and liberalised.

But Jordan is bordered to the north and east by states whose governments brook little opposition. The most liberal state in the Arabian peninsula

to the south, Kuwait, is still discussing whether to revive its parliament, suspended in 1987.

"I'm sure the countries surrounding us are not happy about what's going on here," said Taher Masri, a former foreign minister who quit the cabinet to make a successful run for parliament.

The reforms in this country of 3.1 million people have been more orderly and less sweeping than those that overturned leaderships in Eastern Europe.

In November, King Hussein oversaw Jordan's first general elections since 1967, one of the freest elections ever held in the Arab World.

The fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood won the largest bloc of seats in the reconstituted 80-member parliament despite open government criticism.

Kofahi, running on a

Brotherhood ticket, won more votes than any of the other 650 candidates.

The new Prime Minister, Madar Badran, faced an extraordinary parliamentary grilling over his personal finances and professional record before he won a vote of confidence.

Since April last year, the government has freed all detainees held without charge and dozens who had been convicted of politically related crimes, some of them violent.

The pervasive General Intelligence Department has been stripped of its frequently used powers to withhold passports, ban travel or bar employment. Radicals who once took up arms against the state have been allowed to return home.

The government has promised to make officials account-

able for corruption. Last week a former undersecretary of the supply ministry was arrested in a graft investigation.

Badran vowed to end martial law imposed 23 years ago. He has appointed lawyers to study which of the decrees that have accumulated over two decades should be abolished.

His cabinet has already transferred most classes of cases to civil courts.

Badran also promised to overturn a 1935 defence law inherited from the British mandate giving officials power to ignore many civil rights, a law now used far more widely by neighbouring Israel than by Jordan.

The government ignored its 33-year-old ban on political parties during the election campaign, and says it will

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Israel's labour in high-risk game with Shamir

By Jonathan Karp
Reuter

KFAR SABA, Israel — The Labour Party is playing a high-risk game in Israel's coalition government in a bid to push Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin into peace talks with Palestinians.

Shamir, who has resisted previous Labour pressure to agree to the U.S.-proposed talks in Cairo, may sense a bluff.

Labour emerged united after a well-staged meeting Monday in sharp contrast to a convention of Shamir's rightist Likud Party last month which broke up after an undignified shouting match between the prime minister and a hardline challenger, Ariel Sharon.

Longtime Labour rivals Vice-Premier Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin appeared harmonious in strong speeches leading to a near unanimous vote that cleared the way for them to quit Shamir's government and form their own.

"The unity of the Labour Party will leave an impression on small parties and on Likud, which cannot put on a show like this," said a Labour Central Committee member.

He said Labour had boosted its chances of gaining enough support to bring down the government in a parliamentary no-confidence vote Thursday and this might prompt Shamir to accept the Cairo talks.

"The Likud will have to go with (Labour) after what

Rabin said tonight," insisted another Labour member, Eliezer Rom.

Rabin, pivotal figure in the 15-month-old coalition and architect of Israel's plan for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories, told his

port for breaking up the government that he has saved several times may not sway Shamir, who is sandwiched between Labour and Washington on one side and Likud hardliners on the other.

Shamir aides suggested Likud and Labour might not resolve their dispute before parliament meets Thursday to vote on at least eight no-confidence motions.

"I don't want to predict (a coalition collapse). I think it will reach a no-confidence vote, and then we will see," said Avi Pazner, Shamir's media adviser.

Labour parliamentarians said after their party's convention that they realised the risk in trying to bring down the government.

The most optimistic Israeli newspaper estimates show Labour a few seats short of a parliamentary majority with religious parties uncertain about how they would vote on a no-confidence motion.

Likud analysts said that even if Labour toppled the government, it would have to move fast to set up a new coalition or lose face and momentum ahead of a general election on the issue of peace efforts.

The proposed Cairo talks are to discuss Arab elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where Palestinians have been in revolt against Israeli rule for 27 months.

Labour and Likud are at odds over the participation of 140,000 Arabs in Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem.

Likud has tried to portray Labour as uncommitted to retaining permanent control over a unified Jerusalem because it favours participation by East Jerusalem Palestinians.

Labour vehemently rejects the charge and deliberately made Jerusalem a central topic at its convention.

Rabin, who was army chief of staff when Israel occupied East Jerusalem in 1967, said Likud's comments about Labour did not "deserve to touch the soles of our feet."

Likud also rejects any direct or indirect role in peace talks for the Palestine Liberation Organisation, branded by Israel as a "terrorist group."

Labour is not opposed to the Palestinians consulting any group, including the PLO.

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party there was no point in a partnership with Likud if it blocked the Cairo talks.

Rabin, who usually shuns hasty party politicking, was due to join Peres in talks with religious parties that hold the balance of power in Israel's parliament.

But even Rabin's full sup-

Khartoum asks Arabs to invest in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military ruler offered Arab investors wide freedoms and security and appealed to them, as investors rather than donors, to bring more money to Sudan.

1st-Gen. Omar Hassan Ali Bashir, in a televised speech to 190 potential investors, also announced that nationals of any Arab state can enter Sudan without visas. It is a step towards Sudan's "integration" with Egypt, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries, he said.

Since he came to power last June 30, Bashir has promoted Sudan's unification with Arab countries. Earlier this month, he visited Libya and announced agreement with Muammar Qadhafi on an "integration declaration" that would lead to unity in four years between the two North African neighbours.

The general's Monday night speech was to open a symposium

on foreign investment in Sudan. Last June's coup by Bashir and a 15-officer junta was the third change of government in Sudan since the overthrow of President Gaafar Numeiri's military government in April 1985. The new regime inherited a collapsing economy facing a \$13-billion foreign debt, no money to pay it and dwindling resources deterring further hard currency earnings.

It has cracked down sharply on black markets in foreign currencies and commodities. But continuation of a 7-year-old civil war in the south and the regime's general unpopularity have made expatriate Sudanese as well as foreign investors shy away from risking money in Sudan.

"Freedom of economic investment will be guaranteed for contribution to development and reconstruction in Sudan," Bashir pledged in his speech.

"The state will provide security

and stability for investment activities in all fields and will offer guarantees to protect the money and rights of the investors."

Investors would be allowed to export part or all of their production and could repatriate earnings, Bashir said.

He promised to remove obstacles that investors might face and repeated Sudanese claims that, given sufficient outside investment, Africa's largest country could become the breadbasket of the Arab World.

69 die in tribal clashes

In a separate development, Arabs clashed with non-Arabs in western Sudan last week and 69 people were killed and 14 villages burned down, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported Monday.

The fighting between the Fur, a Muslim non-Arab farming tribe, and marauding Arab nomads

took place at the Shattaya villages of Wadi Salih in northern Darfur, the agency said.

The agency gave no reason for the fighting but said the governor of the Darfur region, Maj.-Gen. Abdul Gasim Ibrahim, toured the area to try to reconcile the two sides. Thousands from both sides had been killed in previous clashes.

Reporting from Al Fasher, the capital of Darfur region, the agency said the governor has ordered the collection of weapons from the conflicting parties.

It said he also has appealed to both sides to abide by a reconciliation agreement reached in July that stipulated that each tribe pay the other compensation and diyas, or blood money, for losses in previous clashes.

The first installment of these compensations were paid last month, according to the agency, which gave no further details.

Kabul clears up after coup attempt but worries about rocket attacks

KABUL (R) — A week after disaffected air force pilots bombed Kabul's presidential palace to launch a serious coup attempt against President Najibullah, the Afghan capital is still trying to get over the shock.

Most of the debris has been cleared away and workmen are patching up scores of buildings damaged in more than 20 hours of intense bombing and shelling.

Now Kabul's worry that anti-government guerrillas intent on taking advantage of confusion sown by the coup and mild weather might launch a rocket offensive on the capital.

"I don't know when our tragedy will come to an end," said shopkeeper Amanullah who lost everything in last week's bombardment.

"Neither the government nor the guerrilla groups are interested in peace and ending our plight," he said. "They want power, absolute power."

Normally winter snows make it hard for the Mujahideen to move close to Kabul, but this year spring appears to be coming early and snow is already melting on the dun-coloured mountains that ring the city.

The government says it is ready to counter a rocket offensive, but diplomats in Kabul say they are bracing for a long summer.

About 95 civilians died in last week's bombardment, which damaged many ordinary homes, shops and some mosques as well as government buildings.

The cost of window glass has soared in the past week, say residents, but the government appears to be keeping the market well stocked with food.

The first bombs to hit the palace came within 30 metres of Najibullah's office, where he was working.

Najibullah survived the bombing by rebel officers led by hard-line Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanai and went on to rally loyalist units that eventually crushed the coup attempt.

Tanai fled first to the big Bagram Air Base north of Kabul and then to Pakistan where official and diplomatic sources said he spent several days at least.

In Kabul many ordinary people are indignant that Tanai joined forces with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of one of the most fundamentalist of the seven Mujahideen guerrilla groups based in Pakistan.

Kabul people are still clustering around radios and televisions for every scrap of news. The listeners are fed a constant message that Tanai was an extremist who opposed Najibullah's efforts to seek a solution to the 11-year-old civil war through power-sharing.

Najibullah has helped himself by making two witty and very combative speeches to tribal elders that have gone down well with people who view Hekmatyar with deep suspicion.

A Sikh money merchant who asked not to be named said he preferred the Soviet-backed government of Najibullah because Hekmatyar would spell the end to religious tolerance.

Pakistan officially denies Tanai ever set foot on Pakistani territory or that its military intelligence service was behind the coup attempt.

Diplomatic and Mujahideen sources say the other six guerrilla groups rejected Pakistani pressure to join the Tanai-Hekmatyar axis immediately after the coup attempt but accept the logic of trying to exploit the split in the Afghan military machine.

Mujahideen forces have cross-

ed the border into Afghanistan since the coup attempt with their most likely objectives being the eastern cities of Khost and Jalalabad.

"I think we are talking about more than a few busloads," a Western diplomat said. "Maybe there are more than a few hundreds."

Najibullah tries to secure position in army

Najibullah has moved to consolidate his grip on the army by promoting five loyal generals but he ignored the air force whose jets bombed his palace during last week's attempted coup.

Those promoted from lieutenant-general to full general included new Defence Minister Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, making him the undisputed military leader, diplomatic sources said Monday.

Najibullah's move was aimed at securing at least short-term loyalty from the new military hierarchy, the sources said.

It would also pave the way for further army reorganisation, they said.

Also promoted were Vice-President Mohammad Rafie, army general staff Commander Mohammad Asif Delawar, First Deputy Defence Minister and Kabul Garrison Commander Mohammad Nabi Azimi and State Security Minister Mohammad Farooq Yaqubi.

No promotions were given to the air force which played a lead role in the attempted putsch. Rebellious air force pilots bombed Najibullah in his palace and came close to killing him last Tuesday.

Tanai was quoted Sunday by a rebel news service as pledging to

fight on against Najibullah.

Pakistan denies it had any involvement in the plot or that Tanai fled to Pakistan, but diplomatic sources said they had no doubt that it stood at least part of the last week in the country.

Five Pakistani political groups accused Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Monday of continuing what they called the militarist policy of late military President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq over Afghanistan.

Pakistan officially denies aiding the Mujahideen guerrillas fighting to topple Najibullah but it is widely acknowledged to be the main conduit for U.S. weapons supplies to the rebels.

"It is disappointing to see the democratic government being helpless in the face of policy manipulations by the civil and military bureaucratic setup," the statement said.

Watanjar said Sunday that all rebel Afghan army units had given up resistance.

According to the Soviet News Agency (TASS), he told Soviet television that all army units were now on the side of the Afghan government.

"All army units that originally took the side of the plotters have stopped their resistance. The situation in Afghanistan is, on the whole, normal," he said.

Watanjar also said Tanai was "batching a new anti-Afghan plot with Western and Pakistani secret services."

"The Afghan government is aware of the fact that Pakistan's military reconnaissance is trying to use the alliance of Hekmatyar and Tanai to seize (eastern border town) Khost," he said.

"However we are ready to defend the integrity of our country."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Libya issues denial on chemical arms

GENEVA (R) — Libya denied at world disarmament talks Tuesday that it was making chemical weapons, but the United States renewed accusations of poison gas production by the Tripoli government. The two nations clashed at a 40-state conference negotiating a ban on the production and stockpiling of chemical weapons, whose use is prohibited by a previous accord.

Libyan diplomat Ibrahim Omar told the U.N. Conference on Disarmament that Tripoli had clarified on many occasions that its Rabta plant produced medicines. He described U.S. allegations that the plant made poison gas as baseless and said Washington was using them as a pretext to commit aggression against Libya.

Chief U.S. delegate Stephen Ledogar said he regretted that Libya had raised Washington's accusations, "but since the representative of Libya has raised them here this morning I can only state that my authorities stand by those comments."

Denktash calls early election

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash announced Tuesday that he was calling a presidential election next month to seek backing from the voters for his tough stance on the future of the divided island. United Nations-sponsored talks to reunite Cyprus as a federation broke down last month.

Denktash heads a breakaway state in the northern third of the island under the protection of some 29,000 Turkish troops. He stated progress in the ony talks by insisting the 120,000 Turkish Cypriots are a distinct people entitled to self-determination — not just an ethnic community sharing their nationhood with the 600,000 Greek Cypriots.

Denktash told a press conference he would resign as president Thursday and stand as a candidate in the election on April 22. He said he had to obtain a mandate from the people on the Cyprus problem. He was last elected president in 1985 with 70 per cent of the vote. His five-year term would have ended in June. Parliamentary election in the north are due in May.

Iraq wants closer ties with U.S.

SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — Iraq's ambassador to the United States has said in a brief address to the California State Senate that Iraq seeks closer relations with the U.S. government, businesses and private citizens. Leading a delegation of Iraqi national legislators on a two-week "friendship mission" across the United States, Dr. Mohammed Al Mashtat told the California legislators that "Iraq for a long, long time has been misunderstood," and that his country's interests coincide with those of the United States.

"We have the conviction to peace and stability. We are determined to develop a close relationship with the United States, because it is also in your interest to develop peace and stability," he said, describing his mission as one "to deepen, to broaden and enlarge... our relationship with the United States."

Mashtat was introduced to the California lawmakers by Sen. Wadie Deddel.

Fire damages Egyptian ministry building

CAIRO (AP) — Fire Tuesday damaged the only two occupied floors of the government's just-completed Foreign Ministry building. Ministry sources said five people were hospitalised for treatment of smoke inhalation. Capt. Ashraf Fikry of the Cairo fire brigade said 10 trucks answered the call and firefighters extinguished the blaze "in a matter of minutes."

It was the third fire in a major Cairo building in 12 days. Early March 1, fire roared through the Helipolis Sheraton Hotel northeast of the city centre, killing 17 people, injuring about 70 and devastating the structure. A week later, a fire in a kitchen of Shepherd Hotel downtown caused little damage and one minor injury.

250 attend Arab-Jewish dance in U.S.

STELLACOOM, Washington (AP) — Arab and Jewish women danced while holding olive branches, and served Matzo ball soup and Baklava at a social gathering to promote peace in the Middle East. About 250 people attended "bailads, bagels and baklava," a five-hour dinner dance Sunday night sponsored by the 2-year-old group Tacoma Arabs, Jews and Others for Peace. The years of strife over a Palestinian homeland was "on everybody's faces, in spite of all the good times" at the festivities, said Patsy Kempthorne, a member of Temple Beth El. Arabs at the event said Israel should give up the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Jews said Israel must be assured that Palestinians will not threaten that country's security.

Carlucci: Iranian threat to Gulf Arabs receding

KUWAIT (AP) — Former U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci was quoted Tuesday as saying he believes the Iranian threat to the Arab states of the Gulf is receding.

"I think the Iranian danger is on the retreat, but in the long run these countries should shore up their defences," said Carlucci in an interview published in the Kuwaiti daily Al Anba.

Carlucci was Pentagon chief at the height of the Iraq-Iran war when the United States rushed its warships to the Gulf region in a show of strength for its Arab friends and to protect international navigation in the vital Gulf oil export sealanes.

At the time, the Soviet Union also made a naval presence felt in the Gulf waters.

Carlucci attributed the difficulties to the strength of the pro-Iran lobby in the United States and said: "The country which I am sorry we could not help is Jordan. Undoubtedly Jordan is in need of our help but Congress acted in an extremely foolish manner."

Carlucci turned to the Soviet Union for anti-aircraft missiles and to France and Britain for advanced jet fighters after American lawmakers rejected a \$1.9 million arms package in 1986.

While he was defence secretary, Carlucci warned that opposition in the Congress to Arab arms sales had weakened American influence in the Middle East and harmed the sense of security that the countries in the region need to reach a peace with Israel.

U.S. unwilling to pay Iranian price to free Lebanon hostages

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Iran wants a higher political price than the United States is willing to pay for Tehran's help in releasing Western hostages to Lebanon, senior diplomats close to Iran said Tuesday.

"The Iranians want the United States to guarantee Iran's role in the Gulf, the Arab World and Lebanon in exchange for their help in freeing the hostages," one senior diplomat to mainly Muslim west Beirut told Reuters.

"Tehran has only the hostage card to put pressure and gain concessions from Washington. Thus, the Iranians are not willing to give the (hostages) card away for a cheap price," he added.

There has been wide speculation of a possible hostage release since mid-January when the Tehran Times, a newspaper close to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, advocated their release.

Seventeen Westerners are missing and believed held by pro-Iranian Muslim militants in Lebanon. Some have not been heard of since they were seized.

Much of the speculation about an early release has centred on the longest serving hostage, American Terry Anderson, who marks the fifth anniversary of his abduction Friday.

Washington has denied any direct contacts with Iran over the hostages but said there may have been indirect approaches through third parties.

Iranian sources have spoken of various meetings in Geneva, the Hague and West Germany, but none have been confirmed.

"The Iranians, expecting a positive American response, took the initiative and reactivated the hostage issue, but there was no reaction from the United States," another diplomat said.

"Such a response is needed before starting a mechanism to

end the crisis. The issue is not ripe and needs time," he said.

Iran, whose economy was hard hit during its eight-year war with Iraq, wanted to use the Western hostages to break its isolation in the Middle East and with the West, the other diplomat said.

"Washington is not in a hurry to give in to Iran. It believes that Iran's continued isolation would further weaken it and push it to become less radical," he added.

The last acknowledged attempt by the United States to free its hostages in Lebanon in 1986 culminated in the Iran-contra scandal which rocked the Reagan administration and is still going through the U.S. courts.

The diplomats said Iran and its allies in Lebanon had sparked recent reports on a possible end to the hostage crisis, but they said the plight of the hostages would not end soon.

Rafsanjani said he hoped for an end to the crisis, but Iran's radical former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi urged the kidnappers to keep the hostages.

The diplomats said the apparent differences in Iran were part of their attempts to put more pressure on Washington.

"Mohtashemi's statement is only fuel to keep the issue moving," the diplomat said.

Meanwhile in the U.S., the Society of Professional Journalists condemned the captivity, if journalist Terry Anderson as physical and mental torture on the eve of the fifth anniversary of his kidnapping in Lebanon.

"Journalists are outraged by Terry Anderson's continued captivity," Carolyn Carlson, president of the journalists' group, said in a statement.

The group's statement noted that the anniversary ironically falls Friday, National Freedom of Information Day.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:00 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:45 Cairo news message
19:30 Local programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Arabic programme
22:00 News in Arabic
23:40 Play "Petra"

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Nut House
21:10 Panorama "Mandala is Free"
22:00 News in English
23:20 The Final Run

PRAYER TIMES

06:27 Fajr
05:44 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:45 Dhuhr
15:48 Asr
17:46 Maghrib
19:03 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzian Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 771331
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331
St. Elizabeth Church Tel. 771751
Aman International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 813877, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
The effect of the cold front which passed the country in the past two days ends Wednesday. Therefore it will be partly cloudy and temperature will

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

rise. Winds will be light and variable becoming northwesterly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

Amman 4/15
Aqaba 12/20
Djerba 4/16
Jordan Valley 11/21

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 8, Aqaba 13. Humidity readings: Amman 99 per cent, Aqaba 68 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyem 620115
Dr. Basim Al Qodoumi 646024
Dr. Saleh Zayed 790671
Dr. Hani Haddad 77721
Fendous pharmacy 778336
Al Amana pharmacy 637055
Naiourah pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Staccini pharmacy 67860

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 664111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630241
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 75121
Blood Bank 641714
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Fire Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 397465
Aman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 012300
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/2
Khafid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Akhil Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 643362
Mahar, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsat 661714
Shamsat Hospital 661714
University Hospital 843945
Al-Musabir Hospital 667227
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164
Italian, Al-Muhajirin 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 7751126
Army, Marka 891611/5
Queen Alla Hospital 6024050
Anat Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital 0398332
Zarga National Hospital 03991071
Jbn Zena Hospital 03983732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital 0273553

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)2320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah, Aqaba (RJ)
10:15 Larissa (RJ)
10:30 Montreal, New York (RJ)
10:30 Riyadh (RJ)
10:30 Vienna, Belgrade (RJ)
10:45 London, Frankfurt (RJ)
10:45 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
10:45 Chicago, New York, Vienna (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:25 Dubai (AZ)
10:00 Baghdad (IA)
10:00 Cairo (MS)
10:10 Jeddah (SV)
10:15 Sana'a, Jeddah (TY)
13:00 Baghdad (LN)
13:40 Kuwait (RJ)
14:10 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
15:25 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
19:25 Damascus (PK)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
11:40 London (RJ)
11:45 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:00 Riyadh (RJ)
12:05 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:45 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
19:40 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
19:45 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:10 New Delhi (RJ)
20:20 Cairo (RJ)
21:45 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:15 London (BA)
08:15 Beirut (ME)
08:35 Larissa, Zurich (SR)
09:35 Rome (AZ)
10:55 Cairo (MS)
11:00 Baghdad (IA)
11:00 Jeddah (SV)
12:15 Jeddah, Sana'a (TY)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 480 / 440
Banana 450 / 400
Banana (Maksum) 400 / 350
Beans 750 / 650
Cabbage 80 / 40



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday visits the headquarters of the special force corps.

Regent visits army unit, camp

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday visited the headquarters of the special force corps and was briefed on training programmes.

The Regent met with the corps commander and later inspected the unit in training exercises. He distributed diplomas and awards to those who had taken part in a course.

Prince Hassan Tuesday also visited Sukhneh camp in Zarqa Governorate. He inspected the camp's condition and listened to people's demands. Camp resi-

dents told Prince Hassan that the services provided to the camp were below acceptable standards. They asked him to urge the concerned authorities to provide social services to the camp. They voiced their appreciation for his interest in improving their camp.

East Europe developments to effect JPMC production

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Developments in Eastern Europe are bound to have an effect on the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) production since the company will be dealing with free enterprise companies in the Eastern Bloc rather than with centralised authorities, according to JPMC Managing-Director Wasef Azar.

"Previously, we normally dealt with six or seven governments in Eastern Europe which negotiated the purchase of Jordanian phosphate, but now we will deal with up to 60 Eastern European companies competing in the manufacture of phosphate-based products mainly fertilisers," Azar said in an interview with the Jordan Times and Al Rai dailies.

"These developments will place an additional burden on JPMC prompting it to increase production and meet Eastern European needs of phosphate," Azar said. He said that although these developments were favour-

able for the company, it is incumbent on the government to maintain very strong ties with East European countries to ensure continued sales. "At the same time, the 10 major phosphate exporter countries could find themselves in hot competition to dominate the Eastern European markets," he said.

Jordan, which is the world's third biggest rock phosphate exporter, earned a record \$434 million from its export of the fertiliser base last year.

Azar expressed hope that the company would boost exports even more this year by selling more to Eastern Europe and expanding markets in Asia. Azar said that JPMC, which employs 4,650 workers and engineers, last year exported 6.4 million tonnes compared to 5.8 million in 1988.

The company made a gross profit of JD 109 million from last year's sales of which JD 53.5 million was paid to the Income Tax Department.

"We are now contemplating setting up major industries to produce phosphoric acid, phos-

phatic fertilisers and compound fertilisers mainly for export. We are discussing these projects with foreign investors," Azar said.

Once a number of obstacles have been overcome, work on feasibility studies can begin and JPMC expects production of these materials to begin before the end of 1994, he added. Such projects would involve increasing the current production by at least four million tonnes of phosphates annually and the employment of an additional 1,000 workers. "These projects will enable Jordan to earn up to \$1,000 million annually up from \$434 million in 1989," Azar said.

Azar pointed out that Jordan's central geographical location is helping it to export nearly 50 per cent of its phosphates to countries east of the Suez Canal. He said that the JPMC has been contributing towards the development of the southern regions of Jordan where the main phosphate mines are located. The bulk of the company's labour force is from the southern region.

Road accidents lower in 1989

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's road accidents last year were 18,336, less 298 than the number of accidents in 1988 with nine fewer deaths and 482 less injuries, according to a working paper submitted to a symposium on traffic violations Tuesday.

Statistics on road accidents between 1985 and 1989 show that accidents have been on the increase with the exception of 1986 when road conditions were improved, said a paper submitted by

Brigadier Fathi Al Humud, director of the traffic department.

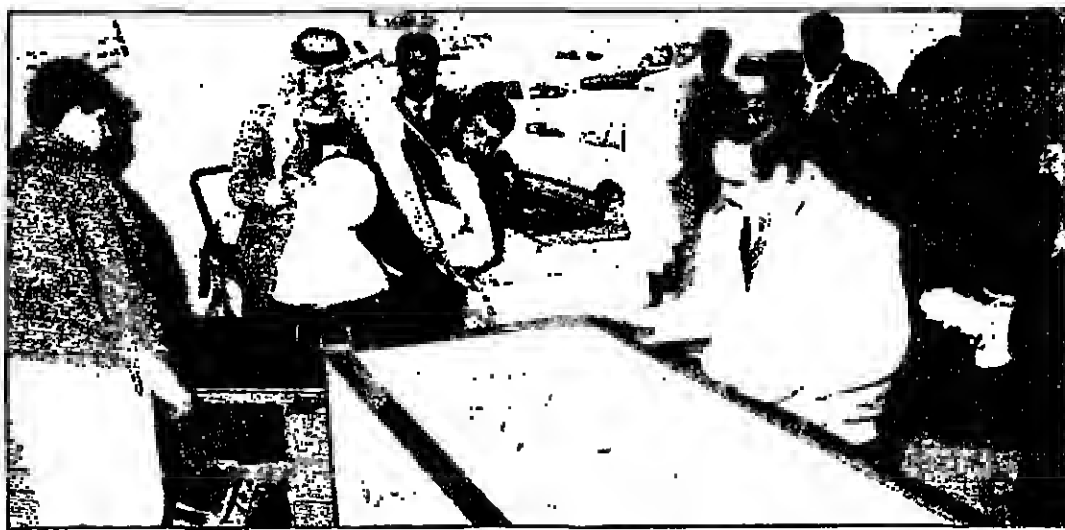
He told the gathering that all indications point to the fact that the increased number of accidents were closely related to traffic violations.

"Traffic police last year reported a total of 616,283 violations of traffic regulations, many of which were responsible for fatal accidents," Humud said.

According to the statistics in Humud's working paper, those

affected by road accidents, whether car passengers or pedestrians were between 15 and 41 years of age, and drivers responsible for accidents were mostly above 41 years of age.

Humud said that failure to impose fines for traffic violations has been instrumental in reducing the importance of fines as a deterrent. "Over the past year, fines were exacted from only 50 per cent of the violators of the law," Humud pointed out.



Customer inspects newly arrived frozen chicken and meat at one of the Civil Service Consumer Cooperation's stores (Petra).

Consumer corporation makes frozen chicken, meat available to customers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Service Consumer Corporation (CSCC) is selling large quantities of frozen chicken and meat at its various outlets throughout the country, CSCC's acting Director-General Mohammad Al Nasser said Tuesday.

Nasser said that the corporation had offered tenders at the beginning of this year for different items, in order to meet consumers' demands. He pointed out that the corporation was also selling large quantities of sanitary

towels, tissues, toilet paper and diapers at reasonable prices. Such items were missing from the CSCC shelves for the last few months.

For Ramadan, Nasser said, the corporation has sufficient quantities of nuts, currents, juice, dates, tea and olive oil.

He said the government's recent decision of increasing the exemption ceiling for the corporation's imports and procurements from JD 4.5 million to JD

6.5 million will enable it to expand and improve its services to consumers.

He pointed out that the corporation is currently running 18 markets and is planning to open four new branches this month.

Nasser reassured beneficiaries that the corporation will honour its commitments towards them by providing all the supply items they need. However, he called on consumers to rationalise consumption and not to stockpile food supplies.

ACC health ministers to establish joint pharmaceutical firm

CAIRO (Petra) — Ministers of health in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) have agreed to set up a joint company to manufacture primary pharmaceutical materials including penicillin and aspirin to meet the needs of ACC markets, according to Minister of Health Mohammad Adoub Zi Zaben.

The ministers also agreed that Amman should serve as the head office for health affairs and that the secretary-general of the office should be a Jordanian national.

The ministers, who are attending the Arab Health Ministers Council meetings said that the ACC agreed that their ministries begin exchanging data, expertise and specifications about locally produced and imported vaccines.

Zaben said that the ministers agreed to consider any type of medicine registered in any one of the ACC states as being registered in all of them and that a unified system for registering medicines will be adopted.

Zaben said that Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen have agreed to give priority to pharmaceuticals produced in the four

countries. A 10 per cent price discount on all medicines sold in the four countries will be offered.

He said that the four ministers decided to hold their next meeting in Amman in the second half of June 1990.

The ACC health ministers were attending the Arab Ministers of Health meetings in Cairo which discussed health conditions of people under Israeli rule. According to conference sources, the ministers reviewed a report by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on ways to meet the health and medical needs of the Palestinian people and the question of setting up a special health unit to follow up the implementation of such a project.

The ministers reviewed a report by the Arab Fund for Health Development which urged WHO to send a special team to investigate health conditions. The report said WHO was involved in raising funds to provide health assistance to the Palestinian people, but it called on the organisation to allocate regular funds from its own budget for such activities.

IBS meeting urges more cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day meeting of the Organisation of International Baccalaureate School (IBS) organised by the Ministry of Education, concluded here Tuesday and adopted several recommendations designed to enhance cooperation between the IB organisation, the Ministry of Education and Jordanian universities.

The conference discussed several working papers on educational policies in Jordan and the Arab World, in addition to future economic ties between the IB organisation and the Arab World. The closing session was chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees of the IBS.

The conference called for increased contacts between the IB, the Jordanian universities and

Arab ministries of education. The participants also called for enhancing ties between Arab educational institutions and the IB schools throughout the world, through equivalence of the IBS certificates and integration of Arab and Islamic culture curricula in the IBS curricula.

The recommendations also stressed the need for harmony between the educational systems in the Arab region and the IBS educational system in the countries of the region. Taking part in the conference were representatives from the ministries of education in Egypt, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Jordanian universities, in addition to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in Amman and the IB organisation.

Brunei denies seeking Middle East labour

AMMAN (J.T.) — "Rumours" that the Far Eastern state of Brunei Darussalam is seeking Middle Eastern labour were strongly denied by Brunei ambassador to Jordan Data Haji Daud.

The ambassador, who resides in Cairo, denied the rumours in a letter addressed to the Jordan Times. "The reports had been exaggerated and misleading," Haji Daud said.

An official at the embassy in Cairo, contacted by telephone, said that no visas for visits or for work in Brunei are being issued unless the applicant proves that he/she has a work contract in the Sultanate. Nevenne Mohammad, the

ambassador's secretary, said that the embassy receives hundreds of letters inquiring about work in Brunei.

In his letter, ambassador Haji Daud, said that his embassy has recently received a number of queries about employment in Brunei especially from Jordan "in response to certain reports and advertisements made by unknown and irresponsible persons."

He denied that his country has advertised in any newspaper for large scale manpower from far-away countries. He said that Brunei Darussalam labour needs were being met by recruitment from neighbouring countries.

Centre details ratio of students to teachers

AMMAN (Petra) — The ratio of students to teachers in Jordan's schools is 22 to one, according to the National Centre for Educational Development Director Victor Billeh. "The ratio in the elementary educational stage is 30 to one while in the secondary stage it is 13 to one," he said. He explained that these ratios were less than the ratios in other countries of medium revenues similar to Jordan.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Billeh said that there were no figures for the average number of students in a classroom, and that the large number of students in a classroom can be compensated by the teacher's ability to interact and deal with the students, the atmosphere in the classroom and the availability of educational facilities.

"Classrooms in the Kingdom are in general crowded with students, especially in cities and densely populated regions, although there are cases when there are small numbers of students compared to the number of teachers," Billeh said. "This results in additional expenses for the educational sector in the Kingdom," he added.

Allocations for education, Billeh said, were very reasonable if compared to other countries of national revenues equal to Jordan's. He added that any increase in education allocations in Jordan at such a time would be at the expense of other sectors such as health or services.

Arabs pessimistic on talks

(Continued from page 1)

Saeed Kamal, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Cairo representative, urged the United States to "take the necessary, logical measures in the face of Shamir's policy of intransigence and his insulting attitude" toward U.S. Secretary of State James Baker III.

"What interests the PLO is that there be an Israeli government capable of holding talks with the Palestinians," Kamal said in remarks to Egypt's state-owned Middle East News Agency. Kamal said Peres' dismissal showed that Shamir "is engaged in futile actions aimed only at wasting time... and is consistently evading international demands for launching a peace process and co-existence between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples."

PLO Executive Committee member Abdul Rahim Ahmad said: "This is another Israeli game that will open the doors for its life chance to contain the intifada and settle as much Soviet Jewish immigrants as possible in the Israeli-occupied territories."

The PLO official was referring to the 27-month-old Palestinian revolt against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Ahmad was also referring to the hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews expected to arrive in Israel within the next few years. The expected influx has alarmed Arab countries that Israel will force thousands of the 1.7 million

Palestinians living there into neighbouring Arab countries to make room for the arrivals.

"We would like to tell them (Israeli officials) that we are aware of the game and we will expose it to world's public opinion," Ahmad said.

He warned Arab leaders that Israeli party disputes "would not result in a substantial change in Israeli policy because both parties are the same." "They pretend the differences publicly, but they agree on everything in hiding."

He noted that Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a leader of the Labour Party, instituted some of the harshest policies designed to crush the Palestinian uprising.

"Therefore, I warn all Arabs that a new Labour-led government in Israel will not solve the Palestinian issue as much as it would be an effort to waste time and waste current peace efforts," he added.

Commenting on the same issue, a Jordanian official said "we smell a new game in Israel which will lead to aborting Arab efforts for a peaceful settlement in the region and therefore will harm Washington's reputation in the Arab World."

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, did not elaborate, but said that Israel "was challenging international peace moves."

Jordanian parliament members Ahmad Oneidi Al Abadi said the downfall of Israel's government

"is a conspiracy between Israel, Washington and Moscow to cover up the procedures of Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied territories and say that there is no Israeli government to talk to or negotiate with."

He said that he expected Israel to stay without a government "until the scheme immigration is implemented."

Another ranking Palestinian leader, Salah Khalaf, said the cratering of the Israeli coalition should prompt the United States to prepare for an international peace conference.

Shamir's actions prove that he and his Likud Bloc "are the obstacle to peace," Khalaf said in a telephone interview with the London-based newsletter Middle East Mirror. A copy of the interview was telefaxed to the Associated Press in Bahrain.

Khalaf, second-in-command to PLO leader Yasser Arafat in the mainstream Fateh faction, said that even Labour's ideas on a Palestinian settlement which were not totally acceptable to the PLO were rejected by Shamir.

The United States, he said, "must take a position demonstrating its commitment to peace, and in the wake of Shamir's procrastination, I don't think there is any option but to prepare for the convocation of an international peace conference, where Israel would have to face the whole world," said Salah Khalaf, speaking from Tunis.

Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

opposes any expansion of settlements in the occupied territories.

The PLO has only observer status at the United Nations, but Arab states often introduce resolutions on its behalf.

Arafat said the influx of Jewish immigrants, "threatens not only the Palestinian people but the Arab World at large."

"I appeal to every Arab leader to shoulder his responsibility," he said. "The blood of the Palestinian people is being shed daily in the Intifada in defence of the whole Arab Nation."

Meanwhile, Israeli Deputy Prime Minister David Levy laid the cornerstone Tuesday for the latest Jewish neighbourhood in Arab East Jerusalem.

In defiance of U.S. protest against Jewish expansion in the eastern sector of the city, Levy, who is also housing minister, exalted Israel's right to all of Jerusalem.

Addressing the United States, he said: "Don't put question marks on Jerusalem. We do not build it to anger you. It is our great duty, our great right to do so."

U.S. President George Bush said Tuesday he did not regret his recent comment condemning Israeli settlement in East Jerusalem.

In its first phase, the new Pigeat Zeev East Neighbourhood will consist of 3,500 housing units.

King asks Iraqi leader

(Continued from page 1)

would accept the land for peace principles hinges on our success in formulating such a unified stand."

The King warned that if the present Arab situations persist, it will encourage Israel to expand at the expense of Arab land.

He pointed out that the gravity of immigration problem is inherent in Israel's plans to set up more settlements on newly-annexed Arab land.

Talking about his meeting with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, King Hussein voiced his full satisfaction with the outcome of the talks. He described the British position, as announced by Thatcher, and that of the European Community on the Soviet Jewish immigration as "clear and reassuring."

The King stressed the need for continued dialogue with the European Community, in view of the distinguished relations between the EC and the Arab World.

The King noted that his visit to Britain was a working visit and that it was part of the Arab role, which he is always interested in pursuing. "I have always been keen to act as an Arab ambassador to serve our common Arab causes," the King said.

King Hussein pointed out that Jordan has passed through a very difficult stage and that it is still suffering from some of its consequences. "It has been our des-

tiny to suffer in view of our position and our close ties with the Palestine question, and our location at the longest confrontation line," the King noted.

"Our suffering is part of our duty. It is our honour to act as a strong wall and an armour defending the Arab World against potential dangers," the King added.

He also said that Jordan has succeeded in safeguarding the Arab identity of Jerusalem and the West Bank until the Israeli occupation in 1967.

The King pointed out that Israel is receiving all kinds of support, and that it is the duty of Jordan to counter it with all the available means and resources.

King Hussein said that Jordan is not against immigration because we support the human rights and call for safeguarding them. "However, we are deeply concerned that the rights of some people are honoured at the expense of others."

The King stressed the need for holding dialogue with both Moscow and Washington, as well as the countries that witnessed important developments. "However the first step should come from within the Arab World."

On the U.S. role in the region, King Hussein said that President George Bush is qualified more than any other former president to tackle the issues of the region, if he so wishes, because he knows well the problems of the area.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Exhibition of plastic artists Arif Al Hamad and Ibrahim Al Nabehneh at the Housing Bank Complex.
- * Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- * Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Mahmoud Issa at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Plastic art exhibition by Mohammed Al Abedi at the Yarmouk University.
- * Art exhibition displaying paintings on glass and silk by Wafaa Tarawneh and Awni Al Khatib at the Professional Associations Complex.
- * Exhibition of oil paintings by Jordanian artist Hisham Dghaim at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Photographic exhibition "The Soviet Village on the Path of Perestroika" at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

Jordan Times

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Coalition goes with a bang

BEFORE the Likud-Labour coalition in Israel collapsed yesterday, analysts were hard at work trying to come up with answers to questions related to reasons, timing and methods of such an imminent collapse. Now that it has actually happened, the analysts should be busy themselves not so much with checking whether their answers were right or wrong but rather with the implications of the break-up of the Israeli coalition government.

It may well be very true that without expending the effort to understand its background, the latest episode in Israeli politics might be all-the-more-difficult to understand. Be that what it may, we in the Arab World at least have to make up our minds on how far we are willing to go in being absorbed in internal Israeli politics and bickering, for or without a good reason at all.

Listen to what a clever and reasonable Israeli politician had to say nearly forty days ago. Writing in the Israeli paper Haaretz, Yossi Sarid, the Citizens Rights Movement MP, said: "Israeli policy is a mixture of pseudo-ethical dogmatism and free-flowing fantasy... Israel does not really have any foreign policy, inside and outside are merged into one and only the inside matters."

With these resounding words in mind, we wonder whether there is enough time in the calendar to stop at every Israeli political juncture and make some sense of it, or whether our time is better spent on studying the external forces that actually make Israel's internal politics go one way or the other.

We are talking about U.S. policy vis-a-vis Israel's occupation of Palestinian land, no less.

In Yitzhak Shamir's and his own Likud Party's own account of the developments that have led to the coalition government's collapse, it was U.S. pressure which had the greatest impact on the way things went in Israel. One statement by President Bush on Jerusalem, and a telephone call from Secretary Baker on the need to start negotiations "now," was all it took to undo what a million words and actions and meetings and compromises did in formulating the coalition and preserving it thus far. Such is the force that any U.S. administration can bring to bear on the Israeli body politic, even if this is Shamir's own thinking and words only.

So why take Israeli politics, so convoluted and obfuscated as it may seem, and magnify it so much under the prism when just one external factor can have such a great impact on it? Labour and official American protestations against this theory notwithstanding, it is what we see as American pressure on Israel that has brought the Israelis to face the moment of truth. It is certainly not true, as Rabin made very clear two days ago, that the government collapsed because the Labour Party wanted to give up Jerusalem back to the Arabs when the Likud resisted. And it is not true that the government broke up because Rabin and Pines wanted to bring back Palestinian deportees and the Likud objected. What is most probably true is that the Americans tried seriously for a change to make Shamir implement his own proposal for Palestinian elections and made life difficult for him when he balked at complying. This is, in essence, the meaning of what happened in Israel yesterday. American pressure on extremist and uncompromising politicians is finally shaping into a definition, causing not a whimper but a bang in Israel.

The result may not solve for the Palestinians their problem, but at least the Israelis will have been served ample notice that they cannot have their cake and eat it too, that they cannot possibly sustain a unity whose base and premise is trampling on other people's rights.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday tackled King Hussein's present visit to Britain where he met with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to discuss the Middle East among other problems. The paper said that King Hussein conveyed the Arab World's views to London as he did before in Paris, reflecting the Arab Nation's orientation towards peace and referring to the influx of Jews into Palestine as a potential danger posed to the whole Middle East region. The King's talks were timely and aimed at stimulating the peace process especially at the European Community's end because Europe had been adopting a stance independent from that of the United States, the paper noted. He said that Europe had accepted the Arab Nation's demand for swapping land for peace and accepted the idea of an international conference to achieve that peace. The need is great now, said the paper, to revive the European role in giving further momentum to the peace process especially in view of the fast moving developments in our region and in Europe, the paper added. It said that the Arabs would like to see the European Community maintaining its credibility and retaining very strong ties with the Arab World.

A guest columnist in Al Ra'i Daily Tuesday describes Parliament's session on Saturday as the touchstone for the representatives of the people and for the democracy in the country. All Al Fazzaa says that the coming session is of great significance since it will tackle the question of national debts and corruption with a view to determining the causes and defining those elements responsible for them. The writer says that all the Jordanian people are interested in the coming session which will prove the credibility of Parliament to which the masses had entrusted their confidence. The writer says that the masses therefore demand that this session be open to the public and not held in secret so that the public can know all the facts, and can be oriented on Parliament's decisions. Indeed the coming session on Saturday will offer all deputies the chance to prove their credibility before the public, says the writer. He says Parliament's financial committee has no doubt reached a conclusion and it is now for the people and their representatives in Parliament to familiarise themselves with them.

A foreign ministers meeting held in Tunis has now called for an Arab summit meeting which could chart pan-Arab policy for the coming stage. This is a very constructive step in the right direction in view of the grave dangers facing the Arab Nation and the challenges posed to its existence and future, said Sawt Al Shabab daily in an editorial. What makes an Arab summit imperative, said the paper, are the on-going developments in the region and the changes in other parts of the world which have a direct impact on the Arabs.

Economic Forum

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

Factories with smokeless chimneys

FOR mysterious reasons, developing countries are fond of factory chimneys. We know, however, that industrialisation during the fifties, sixties and a good part of the seventies was conceived as the most prestigious symbol of development, even as development itself.

The eighties brought about the great worldwide awakening to pollution and the culprit was industry. Nevertheless, the flags of industrialisation and thereby factory chimneys are still flying high in developing countries. If advanced countries cannot close down their factories and have therefore to live up with the consequential pollution hazards, one cannot see why developing countries will have to go it all along and learn the lesson the hardest way.

Farms are "factories" that produce agricultural goods. They contribute to job creation and to foreign exchange saving (import substitution) or generation (exports) as much as industrial factories do. Fortunately, they do not match them, of course, in terms of pollution, complication of human life or engagement and consumption of capital, a very scarce resource in developing countries. And we know very well how to "manufacture" strongly demanded products such as wheat, chickpeas, sesame seeds, onions and broad beans whose imports drained around \$100 million of Jordan's foreign exchange reserves in 1988. But we do

not know how to produce, say, TV sets.

Not only this. The contribution of the manufacturing sector to our gross domestic product (GDP) is so inferior to that of agriculture. Value added in this sector hardly exceeds 30 per cent compared with around 70 per cent for agriculture. And we have made no mention of food security, enhancing man/land bond and thereby the sense of national belonging.

Most of the above argument for agriculture are applicable to services, especially those which substitute invisible imports such as medication, higher education and tourism. Jordan surrendered around \$700 million in 1988 to pay for its imports of these three invisibles. Obviously, services constitute a great import-substitution potential and can, if properly tapped, make a foreign exchange constraint which is straining every political, social and economic nerve of Jordan. A university, for example, is a services "factory" which can make direct and prompt contribution to import-substitution. All the government needs to see a university established is to issue a licence authorising the private sector to do so. Nevertheless, such licences were unjustifiably withheld until very recently.

Moreover, value added in services is remarkably high as it approximates 80 per cent in the case of Jordan. Service industries

are famous for their high labour-intensity and are, in turn, strong potential contributors to the alleviation of unemployment.

The longstanding arguments which extol industry and other so-called commodity sectors are biased because they have exaggerated the merits of directly productive sectors and promoted prejudice against service sectors. They are certainly outdated. Economic development is a function of progress in invariably all sectors. The evidence? All sectors are unexceptionally advanced in developed countries.

Two issues have not been resolved in the cost-benefit analysis which helps to decide whether a certain project is feasible in both commercial and national terms or not. One is the cost to the economy of depleting natural resources such as oil and forests and the second is air, soil and water pollution. We know that pollution inflicts a loss on the nation and its economy but do not know so far what value to put to such a cost. Whatever it is, this cost has to be subtracted from the value added in the industrial sector, which is already low in countries like Jordan. When we modernise our economic thinking as to allow for these pollution costs, factories and their chimneys will be seen in a very different perspective. Certainly, avenues to economic development have started to look much different from those portrayed to us in the past.

Some East Europeans fear German unification

By John Daniszewski
The Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — One Polish caller to Solidarity's Gazeta Wyborcza newspaper had a strong response to the prospect of the two German states reuniting: He would donate his farm to the U.S. government so the land could be used as a military base to protect Poland.

There is no doubt that the spectre of an 80-million-strong, economically powerful united Germany has stirred deeply felt fears among some Central Europeans, especially in Poland.

"Reunification poses a great danger, and not just an economic danger," said a university student, in a typical response of people at Warsaw's main post office asked about German reunification.

Although too young to have experienced the six-year German occupation of Poland a half-century ago, the student clearly was thinking of World War II.

"People say there will be no war, but I think there will be a war," said a 30-year-old technician who said he has travelled several times in West Germany.

He said he saw signs of a reviving neo-fascism, "especially in East Germany among the youth. ... The East Germans are feeling self-confident now because they have a powerful partner on the other side of the Elbe."

The Elbe river is a boundary between West Germany and East Germany, whose merger may soon follow the collapse of the hard-line Communist government in East Berlin.

A Feb. 20 opinion survey of eight European countries illustrated the widespread Polish anxieties. Poland was the only country where a majority — 64 per cent of respondents — was somewhat opposed or very opposed to German reunification.

Opposition to reunification was only 6 per cent in Spain, 13 per cent in Italy, 17 per cent in West Germany itself, 22 per cent in

Hungary, 23 per cent in France, 27 per cent in Britain and 30 per cent in the Soviet Union, said the polls, organised by the French CSA Institute.

Nevertheless, some people in countries bordering on Germany may share the opinion of the Czechoslovak ambassador to the United States, Rita Klimova. She warned Feb. 20 that the region faced Germanisation "by purely peaceful and laudatory methods of market economic development."

"It's just the force of this magnificent mechanism that the German economy is, that is feared," she said, in urging U.S. aid for the Czechoslovak economy.

Polish fears are rooted in centuries of conflict with Germans. From the Middle Ages to World War II, the history of the region has been of the Slavic peoples resisting, with mixed success, the eastward expansion of Germans.

When Berlin was chartered in 1307 it was still Slavic territory. But by the 20th century Germany stretched all the way to the eastern Baltic. At the high-water mark in late 1941, Germans had pushed 1,600 kilometres eastward to within 40 kilometres of Moscow.

The German occupation of Poland from 1939-45 the deaths of 6 million Polish citizens, half of them Polish Jews. With nearly one out of five Polish citizens killed, few families were left unscathed and the memory of the war has been kept alive — in part through official channels — even among the young generation.

But today some Poles admit that their fears are more emotional and historical than real.

"One could call Germany the eternal enemy," said Tomasz Bartczak of Warsaw, a well-dressed young businessman. "But in the present situation in Europe and the world, and with the ex-



tent of armaments, I don't think anything could happen. It would be like cutting off the branch you were sitting on."

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa has been notably moderate in his comments, reminding Poles not to give in to hysteria and pointing out that a changed world would not allow German aggression to develop.

Nonetheless, there is virtual unanimous support among Poles for Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki's demand that the reunited Germany at its outset sign a treaty renouncing any claims to the nearly one-third of present-day Poland that belonged to Germany before World War II.

The Polish press has been acutely sensitive to calls from some rightist West German politicians and unions for resettled Germans to seek restitution for the lands — a proposition that in Poland is deemed unworthy of discussion.

Not only do Poles consider it inconceivable to relocate the 12

million of their countrymen who now live on former German territory, but these Western lands are seen as minimum compensation for war damage and for the larger expanse of territory taken away from Poland in the east by the Soviet Union — with allied approval — after the war.

Because the Soviet Union is out going to give Poland's former eastern half back, there can be no question of Poland returning the former German territories, said Romuald Chosinski, a middle-aged Warsaw resident who said he otherwise did not fear a reunited Germany.

"What has been created and allowed to stand for 40 years should be left untouched," he said. "It would be hard to begin revising the borders because it would have to be done in both the east and the west."

Troubling to Poles has been West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's equivocal statements on the German-Polish border. He says the final confirmation of the 1,000-kilometre frontier must be

made by the leadership of the future united Germany.

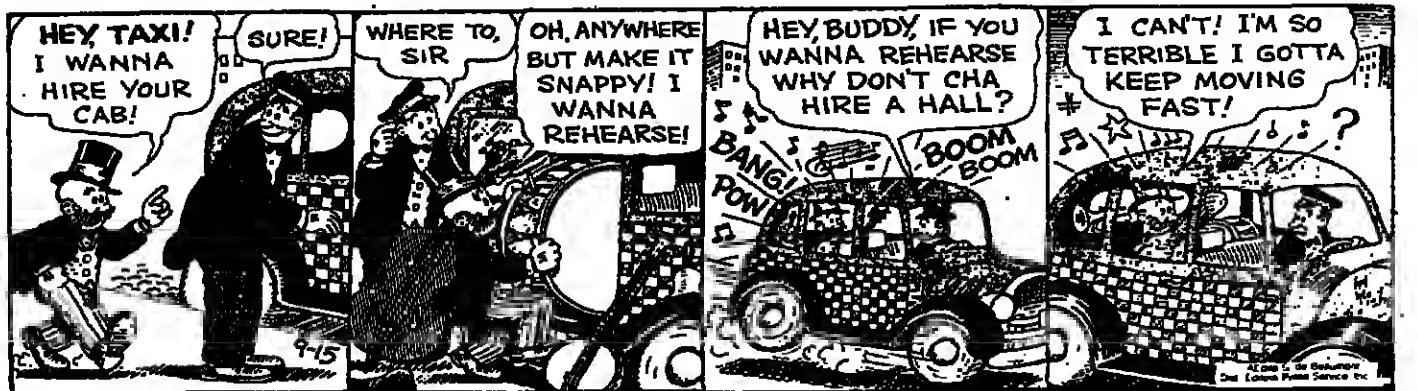
Poles were also shocked that East Germans, when they began to throw off the Communist yoke last fall, briefly instituted a set of discriminatory bans on shopping aimed at Poles living in that country. The acts "cojured memories of the racist anti-Polish policies of the Nazi period."

The degree of fear of the new Germany is less acute in the other emerging democracies in Central Europe.

In a gesture of friendship, Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel visited both East and West Germany on his first foreign trip after taking office. He even endured a sharp political backlash when he said that his country might apologise to the Sudeten Germans it expelled after World War II.

Czechoslovakia has had a strong German minority since the 14th century and it suffered much less during World War II than other occupied countries, like Poland and the Soviet Union.

Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



هذه هي الحياة

Smart cars may change concept of driving

By Steven Brill
Reuters

NEW ORLEANS — "Smart" cars packed with sophisticated radar systems, "automated chauffeurs" and "head-up" windscreen displays may make driving a car in the 21st century an entirely new experience.

Engineers are beginning to design what they call intelligent vehicle highway systems — smart cars and roads — that will some day make traffic jams an anachronism and driving a car more like piloting a jet fighter.

The new technology uses such old standbys as timed traffic signals, message-board displays along highways that warn of foul weather or road congestion ahead, and navigation systems that keep track of a car's location and display it on a map to the driver.

But that's only the beginning, according to engineers interviewed at a recent meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Over the next few decades, they said, traffic management centres will hook up with highways and high-tech on-board navigation systems to coordinate a region's roads in much the same way as an air traffic control centre coordinates air traffic.

The traffic management centres will gather information from sensors and infra-red cameras along roads and in the air, and from cars cruising the roads, the engineers said.

The centre will then make adjustments via two-way radio and satellite communications with the highway system and drivers.

Some information will be seen on "head-up" displays that beam onto a car's windscreen data the driver would otherwise see only by taking his eyes off the road to look at the instruments on the car's dashboard.

In the early 21st century, the engineers said, the use of on-board radar systems will also lead to "automated chauffeurage," which will eliminate many human errors that are the chief cause of traffic accidents.

The result of all this technology and coordination should be more-torrows with free-flowing traffic and far fewer accidents.

The chance of an American

Japan and Europe have invested a total of some \$2 billion in the new technology, slightly more than the United States is spending, according to Kamal.

Many of Europe's programmes are included in the Eureka project, a \$5 billion, 19-country effort to stimulate cooperative research and development between industries and governments in Europe.

Europolis, one of the major schemes, is spending \$150 million over seven years to design smart road systems and to develop technologies to automate driving.

In the United States, the Federal Highway Administration plans to propose boosting its budget for the new technology to \$100 million in fiscal 1992 from \$13 million proposed for 1991 and about \$3 million this year.

Professor Prinzinger, head of the metabolic physiology study group at Frankfurt University department of zoology, says a

lives — and so live longer instead. Bats and hedgehogs, which hibernate, live much longer than animals that are constantly active.

Prof. Prinzinger's laboratory animals included various kinds of mice. The white-toothed shrew, which can rest in a state of lethargy, lives nearly twice as long as the red-toothed shrew, which can't.

Prof. Prinzinger went on to apply the findings of his experiments with birds — that life ends once 2,000 kilojoules of energy per gramme of body weight have been consumed — to other animals and man.

Animals that live to a ripe old age, the Methusalems of the animal kingdom, include crocodiles and tortoises. Both are extremely sluggish.

Similar comparisons can be drawn for humans and explain why the life expectancy of women in the Federal Republic of Germany is 78.4 years, as against 71.8 years for men.

Women, Prof. Prinzinger says, have a metabolic rate that is 10

per cent slower than men's. Men live more energetically, faster and shorter.

Monks and nuns, in contrast, generally live to be very old indeed. That is because they spend much of their time in energy saving, contemplative quiet, with neither mental strain nor physical stress.

The opposite applies to manual workers, athletes and executives. They, according to Prinzinger's theory, are high energy consumers, exhausting their metabolic quota in record time. A short life but an active one, he says.

Interest has been shown by the medical profession in the Frankfurt biologist's theory. He feels it is a practical guide to how to live for as long as possible.

The basic rules of a personal energy-saving long-life programme are to get plenty of sleep and as little stress as possible and to aim at striking a balance.

Take it easy now and then, Professor Prinzinger says. The longer and more often you do so, the longer you are likely to live. (Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich)

France leads Europe in air transport

By Remy Arnaud

ALL THE conditions are present to make France a big air power: The importance of her commercial exchanges (fourth position in the world), her touristic exchanges (third position) and the relatively extensive area of her territory which favours the development of a national network.

In fact, France has been playing an important part in the area of air transport for a long time. One may recall the epic of the "Aeropostale" (the beginnings of the airmail service), between the two wars, illustrated by the legendary figure of Jean Mermoz.

Today, French aircraft fly all over the world and France, together with the United Kingdom, one of the only two countries to use commercial supersonic links (with Concorde).

Moreover, Paris is one of the big world air platforms (the seventh most important), beside New-York, Los Angeles, Chicago, London, Frankfurt and Tokyo. It is regularly served by the biggest international airline companies.

The air traffic under French colours is mainly assured by three big regular companies.

The biggest of the three is, by far, Air France, created in 1933 and nationalised since then. With 15 million passengers carried in 1988, a staff of 37,000 and a turnover of 31 billion francs, it holds second place in Europe after British Airways, but ahead of Lufthansa, SAS and Alitalia.

In the international league table, it is, however, left far behind by the American giants, United Airlines, American Airlines and Continental Airlines which benefit from the huge amount of domestic traffic inside the United States.

Unlike these monsters which have fleets three or four times bigger, Air France develops its activities almost exclusively on an international level. It thus serves nearly 200 places all over the world, including nearly 110 in Europe (and 16 in France), 15 in North America, 11 in South

America, seven in the West-Indies-Caribbean area and 28 in Africa.

Air France, which has just over a hundred planes (including seven Concorde and thirty or so large capacity Boeing 747s), was one of the companies largely contributing to the success of Airbus whose final assembly work is carried out in Toulouse. It had confidence in this aircraft and owns some forty Airbus in all three versions.

Today, Air France has a dual strategy: first of all to continue its diversification thanks to its subsidiaries in complementary fields (the hotel trade with the Meridien hotels, tourism with SOTAIR, etc.); and secondly, the development of international (technical and commercial) agreements with partners in order to meet world competition which is getting tougher. A big deal has thus been signed with Lufthansa.

France also has another international company of far more modest size. This is UTA (Union de Transport Aérien), a subsidiary of a big highly diversified financial group, "Chargen Reunis". UTA was the result of a merger, in the early 60s, between two subsidiaries of maritime companies, UAT and TAI. It inherited their networks: Black Africa, South Africa, a few countries in the Far East (Singapore and Indonesia), Australia and the Pacific territories, that is to say, only long-haul links, made by a dozen large capacity aircraft, DC 10s and Boeing 747s.

For years, UTA has wanted to extend its network. It was thus managed to obtain air-links to the United States, first with San Francisco and then, more recently, New-York which, since October, has been connecting to 5 large French cities: Nantes, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Montpellier and Marseille.

The third French airline company, Air Inter, is the youngest (created some thirty years ago by public and private funding). Its activities are almost exclusively limited to the French territory

(even if, since last year, Air France has allowed it a few links in Europe). It has managed to grow very rapidly in a market in which there is tough competition from rail-travel. It serves about thirty towns in France and even carries as many passengers as Air France, but over shorter distance of course. It 1988, it had a turnover of 7.4 billion francs, with a staff of nearly 9,000.

It has about fifty aircraft and intends to concentrate its whole fleet on Airbus. It already has several 314 seat A300s and recently started using the new 150 seat A320s. It has also ordered fifteen or so future A330s.

These three companies which had, till now, been competitors, have just grouped together thanks to Air France's purchase of UTA and Air Inter. This new group thus has a turnover of 47 billion francs, more than 180 air-

craft and nearly 30 million passengers carried. It stands in 7th position in the world. It is now powerful enough to meet the merciless present-day competition in world air transport.

The three big companies, which have now become "Air France", should not, however, make one forget the existence of a few other very dynamic air-carriers devoted to low-traffic national or international links which they serve either under their own names or for Air France. This is the case with TAT based in Tours or Air Littoral based in Montpellier.

At the same time, small companies with a regional vocation are developing all over France: Air Vendée, Brit'Air, etc., the development of tourism has, for its part, favoured the creation of companies specialised in charter flights: Air Charter International

and Aeromaritime (subsidiaries of Air France), Minerve, Corsair, etc.

The big challenge facing French airline companies, and particularly the new "Air France" group, will be the one resulting from the freeing of air

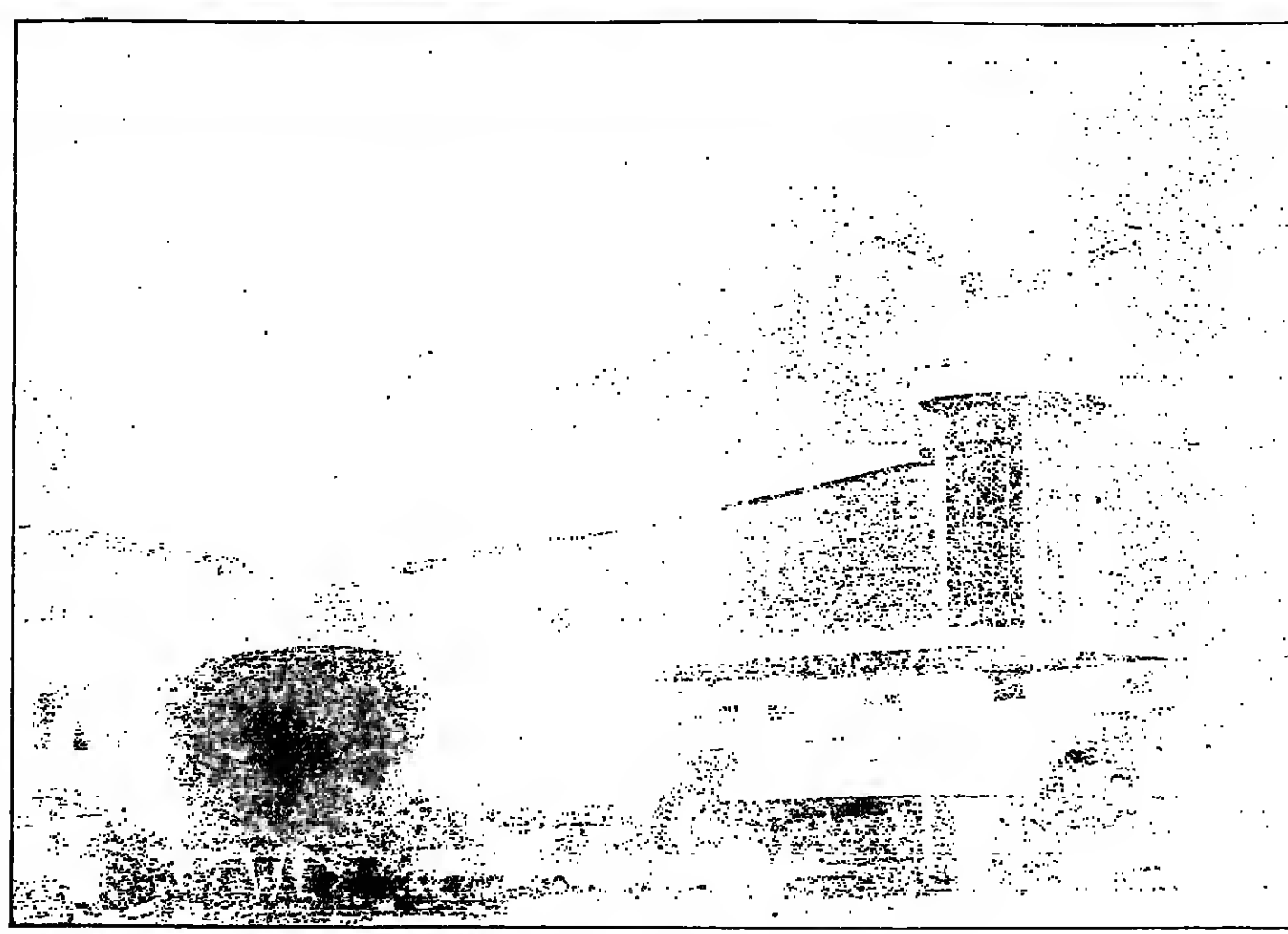
transport in Europe, which will be the consequence of the complete opening of frontiers. The three years separating them from that date will be devoted to increasing their strength and their competitiveness, in Europe. — L'Actualité en France.

French air transport industry prepares for 1992 (Photo by Jerrican)

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Exclusively reserved

By Sana Atiyeh

I WROTE this opinion column several months ago, but it was not published due to certain "sensitivities" that existed at the time. Now, in the open atmosphere that we live in, I would like to give it another shot.

It was impossible to go through one of the main streets in west Amman because of people shopping on one side of the road, while their cars were parked perpendicularly on the other side. But this is changed now, because a couple of months ago a sign was put up demanding that cars be parked parallel to the sidewalk: that wasn't all. There was also a traffic policeman on duty almost 20 hours a day on the fifty-metre strip to ensure that all cars park accordingly.

A few days ago, I parked my car there with the back end sticking out about 35 centimetres, so that I could just pick up some things from one shop. As I was getting out of the car, I heard a whistle coming out from a man in civilian clothes.

"Please park your car in the proper way," he told me. "Are you a policeman without uniform?" I demanded to know.

"Yes. Now please park your car properly," he repeated politely. "Of course. But I'd like to ask you a reasonable question first. Why are you picking on this particular street? Why is it that there's a policeman here all day making sure cars are parked this way; while in the street right behind this one, and countless other streets in the city, cars are not parked parallel to the sidewalk and the traffic problems it is causing are crazy? Why don't you enforce traffic rules on all main streets in the city?"

"There is a road sign here that must be obeyed and this is a main road," he stated, ignoring my questions. "So is the parallel road to this one." I insisted. "Except the other one is worse because vehicles are parked incorrectly on both sides of the road."

For some reason or another, the baby-faced policeman thought I was very funny and laughed, and as a uniformed policeman on a motorcycle arrived. He asked me again to park properly.

Like a good citizen, I obeyed. "I still can't understand why this particular road must stay clear," I asked the shopkeeper, hoping he might be able to satisfy my nagging wonder.

"The 'pasha' lives down the street," the shopkeeper said, reluctantly. "I loved the idea! And I figured: Why not put a policeman on every street where every 'pasha' lives, and on where all the pasha's relatives live. This way, all the streets of Amman will not only be orderly and neat, but definitely traffic-free."

P.S.: Although the above — mentioned pasha still retains his title, he is no more an official, and now the cars park in every which way they please and the road is now as chaotic as every other main street in Amman.

Jordan's road to democracy

(Continued from page 1)

legalise parties after a new "national charter" or principles is submitted to a referendum, probably this year.

Street demonstrations have been allowed, but they have been few and small.

The government cancelled a 1988 decree nationalising newspapers and returned them to their former managers, although government institutions still hold majority ownership.

"The government is not involved in any way in restricting the press," said Information Minister Ibrahim Lzeddine. But many reporters complain that "conservative publishers" mute critical stories.

Jordan's reforms are still in the process of unfolding and democracy has not meant freedom for all.

The victory of Islamic fundamentalists set back campaigns for Western-style women's rights in Jordan and encouraged closer censorship on moral rather than political grounds.

But Massi is convinced King Hussein "will not retreat" from the reforms.

He said the monarch could not even do so unless parliament or other forces acted irresponsibly and turned the public against reform, as in 1957, when some deputies were implicated in a coup attempt.

Jordan's history with parliaments dates to the 1920s. Most were weak. When they showed signs of independence, they were suspended.

But the Kingdom has undergone major changes since then. A country of peasants and bedouins, with only one high school in 1948, today it nearly equals Sweden in the percentage of young people who go to college or technical school.

With an educated population, Massi said: "You can't hide anything anymore."

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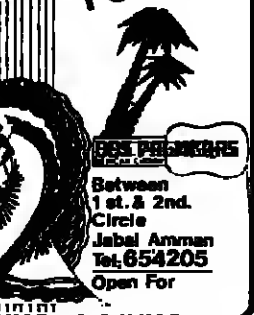
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Arabs to launch \$500m fund to ease economic imbalances

ABU DHABI (R) — Arab Nations meet this week to launch a new fund they hope will stimulate trade between each other and help reduce growing regional economic imbalances.

Finance ministers of the 21-nation Arab League and chiefs of five main Arab funds meet in the United Arab Emirates on March 14 and 15 at the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

One of their main tasks will be to approve a \$500 million fund to help bail a worrying slide in inter-Arab commerce, AMF officials said Monday.

Minimal levels of inter-Arab trade have severely restricted economic growth, and discouraged regional investment in manufacturing and agriculture, Arab economists say.

This has led to increasing over-reliance of food imports, especially to the poorer Arab countries who cannot afford them, and to rising capital and consumer goods imports from the industrialised world because there are no Arab alternatives.

AMF economist Faris Bingardi estimates that inter-Arab trade is no more than eight per

cent of total Arab trade. During the past year, the Arab World has itself solidified further into three main trade blocs. Each has potential strengths but also major economic weaknesses which could be exacerbated unless they cooperate much more, economists said.

The AMF, which is a kind of Arab International Monetary Fund (IMF), is realistic. "Our financing scheme will not remove all obstacles blocking the flow of trade amongst Arab countries," said AMF Chairman Osama Jaffar Al Faqih to reporters ahead of the meeting.

Faqih said that high Arab customs tariffs, bureaucratic red tape, blocks on free capital flows, storage, transport, and communications problems all added to the problem.

The new fund still needs \$50 million in contributions from central and commercial banks, and development funds to reach the \$500 million target.

It will give preferential financing to locally-produced inter-Arab exports, excluding oil and gas, and the AMF forecasts it will fund up to \$1 billion per year in extra trade by making Arab

goods competitive in price. Inter-trade between the GCC states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain, Oman, and Qatar is particularly low at less than five per cent, largely due to their huge oil exports, and the fact their wealth buys them the best of overseas goods.

The other two blocs are the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), grouping Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, and North Yemen, and the Maghreb Union of Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania, Morocco and Libya.

Figures derived from international agencies such as the IMF show just how imbalanced these groupings are. The population of the whole Arab World is around 200 million.

A comparison of population, gross domestic product and total external debt shows:

	Population (Millions)	Nominal GDP (Billion dollars)	Total Debt (Billion dollars)
GCC	18	128	4
ACC	79.5	138	113
Maghreb	60.0	112	55

The most obvious problem is how to transfer more investment capital from the wealthy side of the Arab World, which basically means the GCC, to the developing, indebted side.

Both officials and economists are pressing for freer regional capital markets. "There is now an accepted need to improve the arrangements for Arab capital markets," Arab Banking Corp said in its latest review of the Arab World.

In this sense, the new fund is seen as merely a stopgap measure but some economists also want existing pan-Arab funds to be more active in coordinating development and shift their strategy from one of safety and security.

Japan leads 'unfair players'

GENEVA (R) — Japan won the dubious honour of being the world's most "unfair player" in international markets, according to an independent survey published Tuesday.

South Korea and the United States, a vocal champion of free trade, came a distant second and third respectively, the poll of 1,800 business leaders in 34 countries showed.

The survey was undertaken by the International Institute for Management Development, a Lausanne-based business school, and the World Economic Forum,

which runs an annual meeting of businessmen in the Swiss Alpine resort of Davos.

Japan was perceived by 52.19 per cent of those polled as the most unfair player, followed by South Korea (8.86 per cent) and the United States (eight per cent).

The only European country to fall into the unfair player category was France (4.36 per cent) which ranked fifth and received almost as many votes as Taiwan (6.57 per cent), which came fourth.

Brazil, with a reputation for

aggressive export policy, placed sixth with four per cent, and was the last of the countries the survey listed under that category.

Japan, despite being identified as the number one unfair player, was not completely vilified by the survey.

In ranking the three countries which were deemed the best at turning innovations into competitive products, those polled accorded Japan a huge 73.99 per cent and first place.

The United States was second with 10.33 per cent and West

Germany third with 2.66 per cent.

South Korea and Thailand were seen as the brightest rising stars of international business, polling 34.21 and 10.02 per cent respectively.

According to the survey, the United States, Switzerland, West Germany, Britain, Japan and France in that order were seen as resting on their laurels and being complacent with past accomplishments. "All are seen to be relaxing at a time when competitiveness is becoming more intense," it said.

According to Thomas Shilen, accounting/auditing sector direc-

Oteiba sees \$18-20 oil price as ideal

ABU DHABI (R) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteiba said Tuesday that an oil price of \$18 to \$20 per barrel was ideal and he wanted this level to be kept until the end of 1991.

Oteiba also said that if OPEC's ministerial monitoring commit-

tee, which meets in Vienna next Friday, was to discuss members' quotas, and "if the market allows," the UAE would ask for what he termed a fair quota of over two million barrels per day (b/d).

The UAE's OPEC quota for the first quarter of 1990 is 1.095

million b/d.

The minister made his comments in an opening address to a British-sponsored oil industry seminar and in remarks to reporters after the meeting.

"(Oil) prices are fluctuating between \$18 to \$20, that is the ideal level which I myself like to see and (would like) maintained for the rest of this year and maybe the next year," he told the seminar organised by more than 30 British firms involved in the oil industry.

"The \$18 level which OPEC has fixed as a guiding price has been achieved and I want to say that we must be very careful when we talk about going beyond \$18," Oteiba said.

He added this would give the market change to consolidate and prices might be allowed to rise "to a very reasonable level" after 1991.

He told the seminar the UAE was now producing around two million b/d but could produce at a higher rate.

"But we are morally committed to that level on certain conditions, that other OPEC countries should respect their production quotas, otherwise we will feel free to produce at a rate which we feel will serve the interests of our people," he noted.

Asked by reporters whether OPEC's Vienna meeting should discuss quotas, Oteiba said: "We are flexible and everything depends on the market. If the market is strong then the quota issue should be discussed provided prices remain at \$18 (per barrel). If the quota issue is discussed at the (Vienna) meeting, then the UAE will demand a fair quota."

Asked if such a quota would be more than two million b/d, Oteiba said: "Yes, if the market allows."

If the OPEC meeting did not discuss quotas, the UAE would wait "until this door is open", he said.

The UAE does not recognise its current 1.095 million b/d OPEC quota.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, March 13, 1990		Central Bank official rates	
Buy	Sell	French franc	116.1 116.8
U.S. dollar	671.0 675.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	440.0 442.6
Pound Sterling	1063.5 1090.0	Dutch guilder	348.4 350.5
Deutschmark	392.2 394.6	Swedish crown	108.5 109.2
Swiss franc	440.2 442.8	Italian lira (for 100)	53.2 53.5
		Belgian franc (for 100)	189.0 190.1

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6000/10	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1785/95	Canadian dollar
	1.7153/60	Deutschmarks
	1.9310/20	Dutch guilders
	1.5720/80	Swiss francs
	35.58/63	Belgian francs
	5.7970/8020	French francs
	1266/1267	Italian lire
	152.80/85	Japanese yen
	6.1960/2010	Swedish crowns
	6.6290/340	Norwegian crowns
	6.5685/735	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	397.20/397.60	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — A round of selling by overseas investors and local institutions pushed Australia's sharemarket to a weaker close. The All Ordinaries Index fell 10.4 pts to 1,560.6.

TOKYO — Stocks dropped sharply to close more than 700 points down, largely due to arbitrageurs heavily unwinding cash index futures positions. The Nikkei Index fell 747.66 pts to 32,620.57.

HONG KONG — Stocks ended slightly softer but turnover strengthened ahead of the release of 1989 HK bank results. The Hang Seng Index fell 5.36 to 2,887.62.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed sharply lower across the board in thin trade in sympathy with a 2.2 pct plunge in the Nikkei Index. The Straits Times Index fell 16.38 to 1,565.68.

BOMBAY — Share prices rallied sharply in anticipation of tax concessions for industry in the April budget to be announced on March 19, brokers said. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index rose 14.14 to 688.08. Tata steel was up 4.50 at 112.50.

FRANKFURT — Optimism about East German elections and investment opportunities boosted the Dax Index 21.4 points to 1,867.48.

ZURICH — Trade centred on industrial shares. The All-Share SPI Index lost 1.9 points to 1,101.3.

LONDON (13) — An early rise on Wall Street sent the FTSE Index up 1.7 to 2,224.5.

NEW YORK (13) — Blue chips showed early gains but declined led gainers and the rally stalled. At 1717 GMT the Dow Jones Industrials were down 0.45 at 2,686.49.

Economist highlights Jordanian improvements to attract investments

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A few years ago, before the economic crisis, nobody held discussions to try to understand the value of the dinar. It is only now, when Jordan is in a critical condition that people are realising the importance of a new awareness.

Dr. Ali Magableh at the Department of Banking and Finance of the Faculty of Economics in Yarmouk University, aired this point in an evening of lectures and discussions on means of improving the business environment in Jordan.

Among the topics discussed were the present economic situation and how to improve Jordan's prospects, highlighting "the economic dimensions of foreign exchange rate fluctuations in Jordan," the title of a lecture by Magableh.

He stressed the need for Jordanians to diversify the menu of foreign currency method of payments. "Therefore, one would not rely on the dollar for foreign transactions; additionally the risk of fluctuations will be less," Magableh noted.

Magableh also said that Jordan now has incentives for people to remit their money because of the dinar's situation, the floating of interest rates and Jordan's political stability.

According to Magableh, foreign investment in Jordan is becoming more attractive. An example he cited was that of cement: Before the devaluation, one bag of cement which cost JD 2 was equivalent to \$6. If the same price is kept, the bag is now worth \$3. "This is one way to attract investors," Magableh said.

The Private Services Development Project (PSDP), in cooperation with the Jordanian Association of Certified Public Accountants, sponsored the evening event held at the Marriott Hotel.

According to Thomas Shilen, accounting/auditing sector direc-

tor at PSDP, "we try to improve the services sector by discussing issues with businessmen, bankers and the government."

Although Shilen has only been in Jordan for three months, he can already detect a longing for improvement throughout the community. "I believe that educational discussions such as tonight's are important and beneficial because they create awareness."

The evening concluded with remarks by Samih Darwazeh, chairman of the Jordan Trade Association and general manager of Al Hikma Pharmaceuticals.

Darwazeh's talk was informal but his message lay clear behind his words: Belief in oneself, will and team work will ultimately prove the winner irrespective of other factors.

He stressed the crucial role that exports would play in Jordan's economic future. Darwazeh emphasised that it was not a question of vast resources or plenty of cash that ultimately determines business success. Rather, it was the will to succeed and the ability to make the best of the limited means available within the economy in general and to the businessmen in particular.

Darwazeh pointed to the role of exports in allowing Jordan to return to its previous standard of living and then to move on to become an affluent country. He cited experiences of several other states which are now major exporters, noting that some of them, although very different from Jordan, possessed little in the way of physical wealth (eg. Switzerland) and even were in a state of ruin as a result of war (eg. Japan). Today, such countries are among the richest in the world and enjoy a powerful export sector.

Darwazeh concluded by noting that despite many differences and irrespective of our problems, a change in attitude and most importantly, the adoption of a team spirit on the business and national levels would allow our country to move forward in the 1990's.

M.E. food imports grow at 13% a year

TUNIS (R) — Food imports into the Middle East have been growing at 13 per cent a year and could cost Arab states nearly \$90 billion by the year 2000, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said Monday.

In a report to a conference on regional cooperation in agricultural development, the agency described the food gap as serious and worrisome, particularly in cereals.

FAO Director General Edouard Saouma told the conference in Tunis that food production was consistently falling behind population growth in the Middle East, which for FAO purposes extends from Mauritania to Pakistan and Sudan to Turkey.

Arab states had performed worst in production and their

food import bill had grown from an average of \$3.3 billion a year in the first half of the 1970s to \$16 billion in the middle of the 1980s, the report said.

Saouma said that, with the end of the cold war in Europe and better prospects for disarmament, it could be hoped that the major powers would divert more money to development aid.

"We must ensure that the new opportunities to help the countries of Eastern Europe do not have the effect of reducing aid to developing countries. Authoritative voices have already strongly reaffirmed the priority of cooperative action in favour of the Third World," he added.

He said constant vigilance was needed in North Africa to stop the spread of the screwworm fly.

Study shows World Bank laxity

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank has been lax in following its guidelines to encourage farm aid recipients to scale back pesticide use, according to a study released Monday.

The bank's failure to adhere to its 1985 pesticide guidelines threatens human health and the environment and hurts long-term agricultural growth in developing countries, said the study by the New York-based Consumer Policy Institute.

"The World Bank is in a position to profoundly affect agri-

cultural policy and practice in the Third World," said Michael Hansen, the report's author.

"Unless the bank adheres to both the letter and spirit of its new guidelines, we'll continue to see hazardous levels of pesticide residues in foods... and Third World economies undermined by spiralling costs of pesticide use," he said.

The World Bank provides low-interest loans to promote economic growth in developing nations. World Bank officials had no

immediate comment. The bank may soon announce more stringent guidelines, Hansen said.

In 1985 the bank said it would promote integrated pest management — involving such techniques as crop rotation, hardy plant strains and use of natural predators.

Farm pesticides can still be applied, but use is generally cut substantially.

But the study said the bank has not encouraged reduction of pesticides. It cited one project in

Egypt that called for about a nine-fold increase in use of insecticides, fungicides and pesticides in six years.

The study did find, however, that the bank had avoided lending money to governments to buy farm chemicals that are banned or restricted in industrialised countries.

The study covered 24 World Bank projects funded between 1983 and 1988. During that time the bank funded 193 agricultural and rural development projects, the study said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY MARCH 14, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will be busy this morning getting your own affairs in order and would be wise not to try to force anything this afternoon with the moon square Mars. Don't criticise others.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Improving your property now can enhance the value of your assets. Try to be off on some jaunt today for more happiness with your attachment.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Now you can put your most talented creative ideas into daily activities. You now can wind up some secret plan you and your family want to express.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Give a practically-minded acquaintance compliments for some good deed that person has done. Showing quiet affection for mate will bring much romantic happiness.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't let distractions from a person at a distance take you from your daily duties. A day to invite active acquaintances into your home.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Put off going into an important issue with a younger friend until you have all the facts. This is a day to use the utmost tact in dealing with a member of your family.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Information from a distance gives the answer to your business

concerns. An outside prominent associate can relieve some problem at your dwelling.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be off to new places with as many alert and wide-awake friends as are possible. Think of ways to keep off unnecessary expenses in your home.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A good day to return to recreation of a social nature you and friends have enjoyed. You and your family now can reduce your ideas to a practical success.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your own plan of action needs more preparation. Study before being implemented at home. Show your affection for your mate now by some very practical gifts.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A brilliant friend has all sorts of good ideas to aid you with business and finances. Invite into your home only the persons you really like.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Steer clear of persons who have an axe to grind. Use that vitality you now feel to please your mate.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Lots of clever ideas occur in talks at home that can aid your outside activities. Home is now full of constructive activity and improvements.

THE Daily Crossword by George Urquhart

ACROSS

- Appeal
- Quintessential
- Occasion
- Respite
- Till
- Bucolic
- Gr. mountain
- Leander's love
- Drivers' or
- Old style
- Julie Andrews
- Set of tools
- Alphabet
- Olympics
- Barbershop
- Needle
- Buaille
- Power
- Pelvic bones
- Fin
- Govt. org.
- Rod
- Article
- Spouted
- Vegetable
- Neckline
- shape
- In itself
- Hands over
- Drivers' or
- Postal dept.
- Vivian Leigh
- Low in Latin
- Milan money
- Indian
- Natlike cap
- Landed
- Solitary
- Wrestling wins
- Bribe
- Break

DOWN

- Cabal
- Fertile
- Cheerless
- Juneau's state
- Accessible
- Minnesinger's
- kin
- Sand over
- Bellet alira
- Rainbow
- Bamako's land
- Energy source
- abir
- Invalid
- Cuban dance
- Cargo ship
- Cape
- Criminal
- society
- Improves copy
- Gentle people
- Withered
- Tire part
- Marini item
- Kitchen item
- "Land —
- olive!"
- Stere
- Big bird
- Set of steps
- Bangkok
- native
- Out of style
- Sounded like a crow
- Vanna sells them
- Book of maps
- Catching of the breath
- Atlanta complex
- Middy
- God of love
- Hawaiian
- Voyage
- Golf club
- Actress
- Foch
- Profound

THE BETTER HALF By Harris



"Stop doing that! Those points are sharp!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words

CIEPE

YANDS

LYNKIG

PANMEC

Answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ANOKE PILOT VOIHX DENOTE

Answer: He couldn't swim a stroke, but he knew this — EVERY "DIVE" IN TOWN

لدينا من الاطباء

Raiders to return to Oakland in \$600 million deal

LOS ANGELES (R) — Los Angeles Raiders owner Al Davis has decided to take his National Football League (NFL) team back to Oakland in a deal worth \$600 million, according to an official of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, where the team has played for the last eight seasons.

Coliseum board member Richard Riordan told reporters: "I'd like to congratulate Oakland. I wish the Raiders the best of luck."

Davis, attending an NFL owners meeting in Orlando, Florida, was not immediately available. Davis had been made offers by four California cities vying for the big bucks an NFL franchise can bring. In addition to Oakland and Los Angeles, Sacramento and the Los Angeles suburb of Irwindale also tried to tempt the Raiders.

But in order to get big bucks, you have to put out big bucks, and Oakland's \$600 million offer was the most attractive and won back the Raiders, who had brought two super bowl championships to Oakland.

Oakland's offer includes \$53.5 million in stadium improvements, a \$54.9 million relocation fee, and guarantees of \$28 million a year in ticket revenues over the 15-year term of the lease.

Los Angeles' offer included

spending \$140 million on rebuilding the Coliseum and at least \$70 million in fees and guarantees to the Raiders.

Riordan said Davis had accepted the deal Monday morning.

However, the silver and black uniforms of the Raiders may be seen in Los Angeles for another two seasons. The Raiders' lease with the Coliseum runs through the 1991 season, though a settlement could allow them to leave sooner.

Sacramento, the state capital, dropped out of the running in February and Irwindale, a small town nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel mountains, fell from contention in January.

Many people laughed at the audacity of Irwin, population little more than 10,000 in thinking it could attract the Raiders.

But the town was serious. It gave Davis \$10 million in advance, with the promise of building a new \$115 million stadium on a gravel pit.

Davis, however, had the last laugh. He pocketed the \$10 million when Irwindale had to forfeit it because the town could not raise the \$115 million.

The Oakland City Council was due to formally ratify its offer to Davis Monday night.

Algeria, Nigeria to vie for African soccer cup

ALGIERS (AP) — Algeria's Djamel Amani scored the tie-breaking goal in the 60th minute to give Algeria a 2-1 victory over Senegal Monday in the semifinal of the African Nations Cup soccer tournament.

The match was even, 1-1, at halftime after two early scores.

Algeria's Djamel Menad had a breakthrough in the fifth minute and scored easily past Senegal's goalkeeper Charles Seck.

In the 20th minute Senegal equalized it when a shot by Adama Cisse from more than 20 metres out was deflected into the net by an Algerian defender. The Algerian goalie, Antar Osmami, could only watch the ball roll by him.

Algeria dominated the contest, especially in the second half, when Rabah Madjer and Cherif Oudjani, took control of the offense after Senegal's captain, Jules Bocande, had to leave the game with an injury.

Madjer, who is a star for the Portuguese club Porto, just missed a sensational goal in the first half when he scissored-

kick a ball directly at the goal but Seck just saved it.

Oudjani had two solo chances also blocked by Seck. However in the 60th minute both combined to help Adami score the winning goal.

Oudjani came down the right side and centred the ball to Madjer in front of the net. Madjer, hoarded by two defenders, spied Adami all alone to his left. He headed the ball cleanly in that direction to give Adami a clear shot for the winner.

Nigeria to verse Algeria

Nigeria unexpectedly reached the African Nations Cup soccer final Monday by beating Zambia 2-0 in Annaba.

The Nigerians grabbed the lead through Uche Okeshukwu, who headed home from a corner after 16 minutes.

Nigeria played defensively for the rest of the first half, although star striker Rashide Yekini came close to scoring from an excellent pass by Elahor.

Although they often dominated with high quality soccer,

the Zambians were unable to break down a solid Nigerian defence.

In the second half, Zambia increased their pressure but could not make the most of chances created by Webby Chibabala, Derby Mankinda and Witseson Changwe.

Yekini clinched Nigeria's victory 14 minutes from the end with a skillful close-range shot.

The Zambians produced a late assault but Nigeria had the best chance to score in the dying minutes. Ayo Ogunkana found himself with only goalkeeper David Chahala to beat but missed the chance through bad control.

Nigeria had been considered the weakest of the semifinalists. They were crushed 5-1 by Algeria in the opening game of the tournament and edged into the last four with unconvincing 1-0 wins over Egypt and the Ivory Coast.

The final gives Algeria a chance to avenge their defeat by Nigeria in the 1980 African Cup Final in Lagos, and to win their first cup after a decade of near misses.

Kuwaiti paper slams handling of Gulf cup

KUWAIT (AP) — A leading Kuwaiti newspaper said Tuesday the Gulf Cup trophy should be relegated to the national museum to prevent the trouble-plagued tournament from spreading conflict in Arab ranks.

"The importance of sports stems from its being a tool for bringing the youth and people together," the daily Al-Qabas wrote in an editorial.

"This is the aim enshrined in the charter of the international Olympic movement. But turning sports into an arena for dissension and conflict requires reconsideration."

This year's 18-day tournament, which was held at the peace and friendship stadium and ended last week, was won by Kuwait.

Iraq's Football Association (IFA) had earlier made similar accusations against the Kuwaiti organising committee led by Sheikh Fahd Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah when the Iraqi team was ordered to pull out half-way through the event.

The Iraqis were angered by a referee's red card to their veteran player Adnan Darjal.

Before the tournament started Feb. 20, Saudi Arabia pulled out of the biennial event because the host committee chose an emblem that roused historic sensitivities between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Al-Qabas charged Gulf foot-

ball was being turned "into a tool of dissension and a source of enmity," in defiance of the principles of sports.

The paper warned against allowing "sports acrimony" to affect relations among Arab states of the Gulf, noting that what happened ran counter to Kuwait's diplomatic achievements.

"Judging by the sensitivities that marred the Gulf championships, which were on the verge of provoking enmities, we emphatically say that sports should not be allowed to spoil our future relations," the paper said.

Al-Qabas editorial was the first comment on the developments through the pages of Kuwait's newspapers, which are pro-government like in the rest of the Gulf.

"We are well aware of the efforts exerted by the Kuwaiti diplomacy to put the Gulf House

in order and extend a hand of friendship to all parts of the world," the paper wrote.

"It is a foregone conclusion that Kuwait's strength lies in its relations and friendships. Hence sports is supposed to be a key factor in support of this approach particularly at a time when a new state affairs is being born in the world."

Suggesting that the Gulf Cup Trophy had better be "shelved at the national museum," the paper said:

"Sports is essentially intended to be a bridge of friendship among different peoples... but to find that a tournament has brought apart the sons of a single nation, a single religion, and a single language against the directives of their political leaderships and the requirements of the common destiny and interest, is an encroachment on the dictates of the future."

Austrians sweep women's slalom

VEMDALEN, Sweden (AP) — Petra Kronberger led an Austrian sweep of the top four places in a women's World Cup slalom Tuesday and widened her lead in the overall standings.

Kronberger had a combined time of 1 minute, 24.40 seconds, Ida Ladstaetter was second, .22 behind, followed by Claudia

Sirobi, .28 behind, and Karin Buder, .57 behind.

It was the first World Cup slalom victory ever for Kronberger, who has scored most of her points this season in the downhill.

And it came after favoured Vreni Schneider hooked a gate early in the second run.

Tomba la Bomba wins world cup slalom final

SALEN, Sweden (AP) — Red-hot Alberto Tomba has struck again, coming from behind to capture the men's world cup slalom finale after a second-run rush through 60 gates.

"I skied a near-perfect run, maybe 85-90 per cent," said Tomba after being begged by coach and former Italian star Gustavo Thoni in the finishing area.

With some 16,000 fans watching, "La Bomba" produced a dazzling run Monday down the Stoten Hill that vaulted him from fifth to victory.

Tomba's streak in the last three races — one second-place finish and two straight wins — enabled him to edge Ole Kristian Furuseth of Norway as runnerup in the final slalom cup standings on the tiebreaking rule.

Both skiers finished with 95 points, but Tomba won three

slalom races, the first one in the United States early in the season. Furuseth was consistent all season, but winless in the slalom.

Tomba, 23, an 1988 Olympic champion in the slalom and giant slalom, had a combined time of 1 minute, 37.70 seconds, beating runnerup Rudolf Nierlich of Austria by .65 seconds.

Tomba's march back to the top this month came after a long injury layoff that forced him to miss four slalom races in mid season.

He fractured a left collarbone after a spill in a Super G race at Val d'Isere, France last December and was sidelined for two months.

"It's a pity that the world cup season is over for me," said Tomba. "I've been skiing better and better after recovering from my injury."

"I feel real sharp now. I want to win every race."

West German Armin Bittner, who clinched the slalom cup championship in Switzerland last weekend, was third Monday. .85 second behind Tomba.

Tetsuya Okabe of Japan was fourth in 1:39.20 followed by Peter Roth of West Germany in 1:39.22 and Konrad Ladstaetter of Italy in 1:39.3h.

Tomba said he won't stay for the world cup finals at Are, Sweden, starting later this week. Instead, he will compete in the world military championships in Austria, also set for this weekend.

Two downhillers remain on the men's world cup schedule at Are. Tomba doesn't compete in that discipline. A men's parallel slalom at Are was cancelled because of scheduling problems.

Monday's race marked the slalom farewell to two veterans, overall champion Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland and Paul Frommelt of Liechtenstein.

Frommelt, who's retiring after 14 years on the world cup tour, finished 11th.

Maradona makes team stand out — coach

PARIS (R) — Diego Maradona will be the key to Argentina's chances of retaining the World Cup at this summer's finals in Italy, trainer Carlos Bilardo said in an interview published Tuesday.

The Argentine coach told the weekly France football he was not alarmed at his team's failure to score in any of their last eight matches and was confident they could peak in Italy.

"But without a great Maradona, we have a team like any other," he said. "With him, we have an advantage. Diego is four years older but his skills will make the difference. He is very motivated. He wants to prove he is still the number one."

Bilardo said he was more worried by his other players than by Maradona's erratic play for Napoli in the Italian league.

He denied criticism that he had adopted defensive tactics and said his

team was not scoring goals because too many players were foreign-born and had not enough time to train together.

"All the Argentine strikers play abroad," he said. "When I can get them, it's one or two days before a match. You can't expect anything good like that."

Bilardo said he had persuaded Jorge Valdano, formerly of Real Madrid and a member of the 1986 World Cup winning side in Mexico, to come out of retirement because he needed a forward with ability in the air.

But he denied that Maradona had influenced him not to recall Monaco striker Ramon Diaz, who has been on superb form in the French league this season. Argentine President Carlos Menem even urged Bilardo recently to bring back the former Inter Milan player.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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For further information please call telephone number: 655889.

Basketball star buried

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Hank Gathers, the college basketball star who died playing the game he loved, was consigned to "God's hall of fame" in a hometown funeral to which hundreds listened by loudspeaker outside the church.

"Losing someone like Hank Gathers tears a hole in this community. Our children need someone special to look to and Hank was someone special," Eugenia Lloyd, a mourner, said Monday during the player's funeral.

The Loyola Marymount University star from an impoverished neighbourhood collapsed during a March 4 game in Los Angeles and died. He was 23.

Gathers, who led the nation in scoring and rebounding last season, was considered a certain first-round pick in the national basketball association draft.

Mothers carried babies and elderly men and women clutched Bibles as they filed past. Men

carried weeping children on their shoulders. The 500 seats were filled, and about 100 people stood along the sides and in the rear. Loudspeakers projected the service to 600 standing outside.

The coffin was surrounded by flowers. One 6-foot floral banner spelled out "my son." Another, recalling his jersey number, read, "Hank MVP 44." Teammates carried the casket down the church steps to the hearse.

U.S. congressman William Gray, who represents the north Philadelphia neighborhood where the family lives, was among those who paid tribute to Gathers.

"Hank fell doing what he loved to do, what he did best," said Gray, a preacher. "If you have to go, there is no better way to go than doing what you do best. Now he's in God's hall of fame."

The cause of death remained under investigation, but Gathers had been diagnosed as having an irregular heartbeat.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH

PRETTY PLAY AT LOW LEVEL

Neither vulnerable. East deals.
NORTH
♠ Q 10 8 7 4 3
♥ 7 5 4
♦ Q J
♣ 2
WEST
♠ J 2
♥ K 10 8 3
♦ 10 7 6
♣ K 8 5 4

splendid start by leading the jack of spades, covered by the queen and taken by the king. East shifted to the queen of hearts, which declarer ducked, and continued with the jack. Declarer won and, with so fast entry to dummy, chose to lead a trump to the queen and East's king.

If East now reverted to ace of spades and another, declarer would simply discard his losing heart while West ruffed. So that defender continued hearts. West won and returned a spade to his partner's ace. The time was ripe for a third round of spades, which guaranteed a second trump trick for the defending side, regardless of whether declarer ruffed high or low.

At the table declarer chose to ruff with the eight. West overruffed and carefully exited with his remaining trump. The defenders still had to come to a club trick for a one-trick set.

Note how prettily East-West timed their defense. The second trump trick takes its label from sporting events — a promotion. It is difficult to think of a better moult.

The bidding:
East South West North
1 ♠ 1 ♥ Pass Pass

Opening bid: Jack of ♠
In most column hands, declarer plays in a game or slam. However, even lowly passers can produce fascinating struggles, as this hand from a rubber bridge game testifies.

While we do not quibble greatly with North's pass, we would have bid our six-card spade suit. But then, we would have had nothing to write about.

West got the defense off to a

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RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK

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Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

Noor Al Sharif/
Nabeelah Obaid

THE OTHER WOMAN
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOUN

NIGHT & TRAITORS
(Arabic)

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Lithuanian independence decision invalid — Gorbachev

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail Gorbachev told Soviet lawmakers Tuesday he considers Lithuania's declaration of independence "illegal and invalid," but he urged patience in dealing with the matter.

The president said Moscow's relations with the Baltic republic would continue unchanged for the time being in the wake of Sunday's vote by Lithuanian lawmakers to break away from the Soviet Union and become an independent nation.

However, Gorbachev warned that the Kremlin would not begin wholesale negotiations with republics seeking greater autonomy.

"We cannot talk about negotiations," he said. "You carry out negotiations with a foreign country."

Lithuanian representatives appealed for recognition of their declaration of statehood and for the start of talks on their secession.

Until Tuesday, Gorbachev had not said specifically whether he would recognise the Lithuanian action, although a day earlier he had called the move "alarming."

Gorbachev opened the second day of a meeting of the Congress of People's Deputies Tuesday by giving the 2,000 lawmakers an update on the government's reaction to the Lithuanian vote.

"I think it is illegal and invalid," the Soviet leader said. However, he added that a "political and judicial evaluation" was needed, and said Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov and a commission had begun studying the matter.

The Soviet leader won applause from the congress when he said the Kremlin would not negotiate with republics seeking independence, including the other two Baltic republics, Latvia and Estonia.

At one point, calling the Lithuanians "comrades," Gorbachev paused and then said: "I think they are comrades."

"There are layers of others, but we are talking about Lithuania, the Lithuanian people, Communists, and representatives of other nationalities," he said.

The Soviet leader made a point of welcoming the presence of Lithuanian deputies at the congress. But Lithuanian deputy Vaidotas Antanasaitis said the Lithuanians considered themselves former members of the congress who were at the gathering as observers.

Antanasaitis read excerpts from the declaration of independence, together with appeals from the Lithuanian parliament for recognition of their action. He said Lithuania wants good relations with Moscow, and called for negotiations on the separation. Gorbachev offered no reaction.

Algimantas Cekoskalis, another Lithuanian deputy, said later he believed the Soviet leader would soften his position.

"Gorbachev is a realist," he said. "He'll change his stand."

Ingrid Toome, a deputy and premier of Estonia, said Estonians and Latvians were upset by Gorbachev's assertion there would be no negotiations, but said it was possible the Soviet

leader had not fully explained his position.

"So far, many of his political steps have shown that he has to start these negotiations," Toome said.

On Monday, politburo member Yegor Ligachev said the use of force to deal with Lithuania's drive toward independence had been ruled out.

"We will not use force," declared Ligachev, who is seen as one of the politburo's conservative members. "We must resolve this by political means."

In January, Red Army troops stormed the Azerbaijani capital of Baku to put down unrest fuelled by independence demands, killing dozens. In April 1989, troops killed at least 19 people in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, during an independence demonstration.

On Monday, with no direct response from Moscow yet in hand, members of the 141-seat Lithuanian parliament in Vilnius drafted a letter to Gorbachev asking him to recognise Lithuania's statehood and begin talks on restoration of full independence.

In its attempt to turn Sunday's declaration into reality, Lithuania must resolve a daunting array of questions, including matters of territory, compensation, the status of thousands of Soviet soldiers, ownership of factories and land, and control of the police and KGB.

Poland expressed hope Monday that neighbouring Lithuania could achieve statehood peacefully.

ly, while the United States and Britain delayed recognition of the nation's self-declared independence.

"The Polish government supports nations' self-determination, including self-determination leading to separate statehood," government spokeswoman Malgorzata Niezabitowska said in a statement on the nightly news.

In Washington Monday, the White House said it is willing to deal with Lithuania as an independent state if the Baltic state can negotiate a full transfer of power from the Soviet Union and take charge of its own destiny.

But U.S. officials stopped short of official recognition of Lithuania's new move toward independent government, apparently trying to balance the national aspirations of Lithuanians against Gorbachev's political strength.

White House spokesman Mario Fitzwater emphasised that Lithuania's declaration was only a first step. Much needs to be done before the Baltic state becomes truly independent and formal ties are established.

In London, Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave said Britain is "fascinated" by Lithuania's declaration of independence but has no immediate plans to recognise the Baltic republic.

Waldegrave said that before recognising an independent Lithuania, Britain would examine such factors as its control over domestic affairs and foreign policy.

Thatcher vows to stay in power

LONDON (Agencies) Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, ignoring talk of a leadership crisis, vowed to stay in power as fresh violence flared in a simmering nationwide protest against a new tax.

Thatcher, whose leadership is beset by economic troubles and street demonstrations against her so-called "poll tax," said she enjoyed her job and intended to keep it.

"I am very happy in the business I do, very happy indeed," she said during a dinner in honour of women business executives Monday evening.

Asked by reporters if she intended to stay on as prime minister, the three-term leader replied firmly: "Yes I do."

As Thatcher declared her intention to stay in power, police reported up to 45 arrests in fresh violence over the poll tax, which has brought thousands of protesters onto the streets and prompted signs of deep division within the ruling Conservative Party.

Near-riots last week saw Thatcher burned in effigy and some street battles with police.

The poll tax, dubbed "Maggie's tax" by the opposition Labour Party, will replace property taxes with a new levy on adults of voting age from next month.

For the Conservatives the tax has meant a further slide in opinion polls which had already registered discontent over their policy of raising interest rates to choke off inflation.

Earlier Monday key members of the party rallied to quash suggestions of a leadership crisis after newspapers reported over the weekend that a quarter of Conservative politicians wanted Thatcher to step down before the next election.

Former Defence Minister Michael Heseltine was touted as the first choice of Conservative members of parliament if Thatcher stepped down, according to three Sunday newspaper polls.

Party Chairman Kenneth Baker dismissed the reports as "idle and vain speculation."

"The party wants Margaret Thatcher to continue as its leader," he said. "She has won three elections. She is a very successful politician and a world

figure. She will lead us to victory in the next election."

The Conservatives trail the Labour Party by up to 19 per cent in opinion polls.

Heseltine said in an interview published in Tuesday's Daily Express newspaper that he expected Thatcher to be still at the party helm at the next election.

"I have made it clear that I could see no circumstances in which I would challenge Mrs. Thatcher," said Heseltine, who walked out of the cabinet after a row with Thatcher over the future of a British helicopter-maker.

"I have made it clear to all Conservative audiences that I think she will lead us into the next election," he said.

Police said several people — police and demonstrators — were slightly injured in the latest protest against the new tax.

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants says the average household paying about £505 (\$813) under the rates will pay about £675 (\$1,086) under the new tax.

COLUMN

Van Gogh painting vanishes from safe

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — Police said Monday that a painting by Vincent Van Gogh, valued at 2.5 million Swiss francs (\$1.8 million), has been reported stolen from a customs warehouse. The canvas, Wheat Field With Stocks, measuring 28.5 by 37 centimetres and dated 1888, was to be shown to a potential buyer last Friday but the safe containing it was found to be empty, police said.

Thieves steal \$670,000 worth of art

TORONTO (AP) — Thieves made off with more than 670,000 worth of art from a Toronto gallery including works by Pablo Picasso. After knocking a hole in the wall, the intruders removed the works from the downtown Albert White Art Gallery, police said. The most expensive works lost were a pencil drawing and an original coloured print by Picasso, each valued at \$75,000. The more than 60 pieces included paintings, etchings, lithographs, woodcuts and silkscreens by Francis Bacon, Sam Francis, David Hockney, Roy Lichtenstein, Joan Miro, Victor Vasarely and others. Avoiding two alarm systems, thieves entered a hallway beside the gallery and broke through the wall, snatching the art from a storage closet while never setting foot on the gallery floor. Toronto police detective Ray Tattire said the thieves would undoubtedly have set off alarms had they actually entered the gallery.

Protesters save tiny frogs

TOKYO (R) — Two tiny frogs won't have to croak, thanks to Japanese animal-lovers. Four eight millimetre long frogs — thought to be the world's smallest — were brought to Japan from the Seychelles for an exotic flora and fauna exhibit at the Osaka Flower Expo opening in April. But the minuscule amphibians were almost invisible to the naked eye, particularly when they followed their instincts and hid behind leaves. On Monday a Tokyo daily reported that the expo organisers planned to kill two of them, preserve them in formalin and put them on show under magnifying glasses so that visitors didn't have to strain their eyes. "Many people called us yesterday and said it was ridiculous to take the lives of such tiny frogs for such a purpose," an expo official said Tuesday. "It was a reasonable reaction, so we've decided to show videos of the frogs instead."

World's largest tusk stolen

KINSHASA, Zaire (AP) — Thieves have stolen a 60-ton ivory elephant tusk believed to be the largest in the world from a Zairean national park, police said Monday. A police source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they have no clues as to who stole the tusk from the Lwiro Centre for Research in Natural Science at Kahuzi-Biega National Park. The park is near Rwandan border. He refused to give other details or say when the tusk was stolen. The 3-metre-long tusk came from an elephant killed in 1943 by European hunter Jean Borman. It was killed at Bwito, in Zaire's eastern Kivu province. The elephant herds in this central African nation have been nearly destroyed by ivory hunters who have reduced the continent's elephant population from about 1.2 million to an estimated 600,000 in the last eight years.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	02	06	13 55 Cloudy
ATHENS	09	21	21 70 Clear
BAGHDAD	20	28	29 79 Clear
BANGKOK	27	31	34 93 Clear
Buenos Aires	15	20	22 72 Cloudy
CAIRO	09	48	15 65 Clear
CHICAGO	15	27	27 81 Rain
COPENHAGEN	01	24	29 84 Clear
FRANKFURT	-01	20	15 61 Clear
GENEVA	02	26	31 88 Cloudy
HONG KONG	15	21	19 65 Clear
ISTANBUL	05	43	15 59 Clear
LONDON	07	45	12 54 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	07	45	14 57 Clear
MADRID	07	45	21 70 Clear
MEXICO	20	28	27 81 Cloudy
MONTREAL	01	24	29 84 Cloudy
MOSCOW	-02	28	30 86 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	14	27	21 70 Clear
NEW YORK	09	47	14 58 Cloudy
PARIS	04	28	14 57 Cloudy
ROME	05	43	15 64 Cloudy
SEATTLE	16	21	24 75 Clear
TOKYO	05	41	11 82 Clear
VIENNA	06	43	15 59 X

X - Indication missing information.

Bhutto predicts victory for Kashmir Muslims

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (R) — Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Tuesday predicted victory for Muslim militants battling Indian rule in Kashmir and pledged Islamabad's political and diplomatic support.

Making her first visit to the disputed region since taking office in late 1988, Bhutto said India must allow Kashmiris to decide their own future in a United Nations-mandated plebiscite or they would wrest their rights themselves.

"Kashmiris will die for freedom and live for freedom," she

declared as thousands of long-waving people welcomed her arrival in Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan's Azad (free) Kashmir.

"I feel the dreams of Kashmiri brothers are going to be realised," she later told a joint session of the Azad Kashmir parliament. "Their goal of freedom is coming nearer and walls of oppression are going to fall down."

India accuses Pakistan of being behind the Kashmir uprising in the two-thirds of the region Delhi

controls. Islamabad said it is a spontaneous revolt but has infuriated India by voicing loud support for what Pakistanis call the Kashmiri freedom fighters.

"No tanks, guns or bomb explosions can stop them because the people's power is the biggest explosion," Bhutto said.

"I tell the Indian rulers to respect the Kashmiri sentiments and honour their international obligations, end repression and give Kashmiris their right to decide their future under U.N. auspices," she said.

Singh refuses to bow to pressure on Kashmir

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Viswanath Pratap Singh refused Tuesday to bow to pressure from a powerful Hindu party to remove constitutional protections for India's Muslim-majority Jammu and Kashmir state.

Singh's refusal coincided with the killing of a police detective in the state's summer capital, Srinagar. Police said the detective was the latest victim of a seven-week-old Muslim uprising in which at least 200 people have died.

Singh told parliament in a heated debate on Kashmir that his minority National Front government would uphold Article 370 of the constitution.

Singh was forced to give the assurance over Article 370, which gives constitutional protection to residents of Jammu and Kashmir, after the leader of the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) demanded its removal.

Article 370, which includes a ban on non-Kashmiri Indians owning property in the state, enforces Hindu minorities.

Bulgarian opposition, Communists sign accord

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — The ruling Communists, the democratic opposition and other political groups signed unprecedented political agreements Monday ensuring equal terms for all parties competing in the elections, the state media reported.

The agreements were adopted at negotiations which resumed Monday after having been suspended for a month over disagreements on reform.

The agreements also require that until the June 11 elections, all draft legislation must be first agreed upon at the talks before going to the Communist-dominated parliament for adoption, the state media reported.

Bulgaria radio said a third agreement guarantees peaceful transition to a democratic system. Zhelyu Zhelev, the chairman of the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) — a loose coalition of 19 opposition groups — called the signing of the agreements an "historic act," the Bulgarian News Agency (BTA) reported.

Zhelev reportedly credited the opposition's recent mass rallies for getting the agreements signed.

The agreement on the democratisation process outlined the basic aspects seen as vital to a democratic political system, including a freely elected parliament, a multi-party system, equality of different forms of ownership and basic human rights, BTA said.

Key draft legislation on the holding of free elections is to be discussed at the negotiations, set to resume Thursday, and brought to parliament at its next session.

The sides at the talks also agreed that international observers from the Soviet Union, the United States and from some European countries should be invited to attend the elections set for June, BTA reported.

Communist Party chief Alexander Lilov, who headed the Communist delegation to the talks for the first time, stressed the importance of the accords for the political future of Bulgaria and called for mutual respect and responsibility of all parties concerned, according to radio reports.

Security Council members reach accord on Cambodian elections

PARIS (R) — A conference on Cambodia has reached broad agreement about U.N.-supervised elections but did not decide who should serve on a National Supreme Council to be set up before the poll, diplomatic sources said.

"Today's talks went reasonably well but it's hard pounding. We now have to look at the detail and the closer you look the more difficult it becomes," one Western diplomat said.

Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States began exploring the chances of a U.N.-sponsored peace settlement early this year, saying a bloody flare-up of fighting in Cambodia called for drastic action.

North says Poindexter approved funds diversion

WASHINGTON (R) — Former presidential aide Oliver North has testified that his supervisor in the Reagan White House had given him permission to divert profits from covert U.S. arms sales to Iran to buy military supplies for the Nicaraguan contra rebels.

Testifying in the trial of former National Security Adviser John Poindexter, North discussed the central issue of the Iran-contra scandal that shook Ronald Reagan's presidency.

He testified reluctantly, prompting the exasperated judge to say that questioning him was "like pulling teeth." Towards the end of his second day on the stand, jurors were openly snickering.

North and Poindexter are the only two major Iran-contra figures to go to trial. North is currently performing a community service sentence while he appeals his conviction on three felonies.

The former White House aide said Poindexter, a former navy rear admiral, not only approved the funds diversion but told North it must never be disclosed.

"That process (the diversion plan) — you got the full permission and authority from Admiral Poindexter?" prosecutor Dan Webb asked.

"Yes," said North.

Asked if he recalled Poindexter telling him not to reveal details of the diversion, North replied: "I do remember the general admonition."

The sources said that during Monday's talks officials from the Security Council's "big five" had reached general consensus on how to run the U.N.-supervised poll and how to set up an interim Cambodian authority before the elections were held.

But they failed to agree on who should join a National Supreme Council they planned.

The National Supreme Council would in principle "embrace all shades of opinion" and delegate its authority to the United Nations during a transition period, the sources said.

A three-party guerrilla coalition, with assistance from China and the West, has tried to oust the government of Prime Minis-

ter Hun Sen, who is backed by Vietnam and the Soviet Union. A first meeting in Paris in January raised hopes of a negotiated settlement but a second round in New York was tougher than expected and left major problems unresolved.

So far, the big five nations have agreed on the need for a ceasefire between government troops and their guerrilla opponents and a temporary U.N. administration pending elections.

But the U.N. mandate has been left loosely defined and differences still exist over whether it should be restricted to peace-keeping operations or go as far as filling key positions in an interim government.

The secret diversion to the profits from the Iran arms sales — at a time when official U.S. aid to the rebels was illegal — was at the heart of the Iran-contra scandal. Reagan insisted he knew nothing about the sensitive issue.

But Reagan was alleged to have signed a document allowing North and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to carry out the diversion without explaining their actions to Congress.

Ortega assures Quayle of peaceful transition

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has promised U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle he will peacefully and unconditionally relinquish power, according to U.S. officials travelling with Quayle.

Ortega also assured the vice president that all cabinet ministers, including the defence minister, "will be appointed by and report to Violeta Chamorro," the U.S.-backed candidate who beat Ortega in the Feb. 25 election, one official quoted Quayle as saying.

Mrs. Chamorro is to take office April 25.

Quayle and Ortega met over a 1½-hour lunch hosted by newly inaugurated Chilean President Patricio Aylwin in the presidential palace. They had arranged in two brief earlier chats to talk further.

It was the first such U.S. discussion with the Nicaraguan leftist. The United States has

avoided high-level contacts with Ortega, holding that his government should negotiate directly with the U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels, whose future has been a sticking point in transition talks, rather than with the United States.

Ortega also asked that the United States immediately lift the economic sanctions imposed during his regime, said the officials, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

Quayle assured him the administration already was actively considering the same request made by Mrs. Chamorro, the officials said.

On Monday evening, Quayle left Chile and arrived in Paraguay for an 18-hour visit, the first by a top-ranking U.S. official in more than 30 years.

Quayle's aides said that while Ortega has said repeatedly the contras must be disbanded before power is to be transferred, he did not make that a precondition to

his Monday promise of peaceful transition.

"He assured me he will turn over power as scheduled April 25," officials quoted Quayle as saying.

The U.S. position also favours disbanding the rebel army, but the United States has insisted the rebels be given security guarantees before they lay down their arms.

The officials said Quayle brought up possible use of United Nations' peacekeeping troops to help prevent fighting between the contra rebels and Sandinista loyalists.

Ortega indicated that would be fine "if they are willing to take the risk," the aides said. They quoted Quayle as replying, "we better take a risk for peace."

The lonebon conversation took place after Ortega asked Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who was seated next to Quayle, to trade places with him. The United States had shunned

Ortega for a decade.

Ortega later characterised the discussion as "frank, friendly and constructive."

Several heads of state have used the inauguration in Chile to discuss how to bring about a peaceful transition in Nicaragua.

Arias joined Ortega in announcing that a meeting of Central American presidents will be held at the end of the month to discuss ways to bring about a smooth and peaceful transition in Managua.

Arias said that Quayle concurred when Arias suggested the contras should receive no U.S. money to repatriate until they lay down their arms.

But Quayle's chief of staff, Bill Kristol, later said Quayle agreed only that there should be incentives for the contras to disband — not that they should disarm or lose repatriation money. Kristol also said Quayle insisted there be security guarantees for the contras.

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